



Ninth session  
Agenda item 38

## BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1955

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. A. LIVERAN (Israel)

1. In the course of twenty-seven meetings held during the period October - December 1954, the Fifth Committee considered the budget estimates of the United Nations for the financial year 1955. As a result of its deliberations, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly should approve appropriations for 1955 in the total amount of \$46,963,800. It further recommends that Miscellaneous Income for the financial year 1955 should be approved at an estimate of \$6,832,600, which amount, applied as an offset against estimated gross expenditure for 1955, will produce a net figure of \$40,131,200.

2. The net expenditure amount will be subject to adjustments in accordance with the terms of financial regulation 5.2, estimated as follows:

Dollars (US)

Increase:

(a) Supplementary appropriation for the financial year 1954 . 701,870

Decrease:

(b) Appropriations to be surrendered under financial regulations 4.3 and 4.4 in respect of the financial year 1953 . . . . . 1,193,070  
Net additional decrease . . . . . 491,200

As a result of these adjustments, assessment of contribution from Member States for the financial year, if appropriations are approved as recommended, will amount to \$39,640,000 as compared with \$41,300,000 for 1954, a decrease of \$1,660,000.

3. The Committee had before it as basic working documents the budget estimates and information annexes submitted by the Secretary-General,<sup>1/</sup> and the second report to the ninth session of the General Assembly of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>2/</sup> as well as a statement of the 1954 budget expenses to 31 August 1954 (A/C.5/577).

4. The Committee also examined revised estimates reflecting the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions (A/C.5/582 and Corr.1) and detailed estimates for various field missions under Section 5, for which only a token global provision had been presented in the original budget estimates. Details of the Committee's action under these headings are given below in the sections of the present report relating to the relevant sections of the budget.

5. Throughout its meetings, the Committee had the assistance of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions who as in past years, participated in the Committee's discussions. The Committee desires to record its high appreciation of the help it has received from the Advisory Committee, whose forty reports on matters dealt with by the Fifth Committee during the ninth session greatly facilitated the successful completion of a long and difficult agenda.

6. The present report is not intended to be an exhaustive review of the Committee's budget discussions, a more detailed summary of which, including the points of view expressed by individual delegations, is contained in the Official Records. Its purpose is to provide a synopsis of the main points emerging from the Committee's review of the budget proposals for the financial year 1955.

7. Since, in accordance with the General Assembly's earlier instruction, the Secretary-General's budget estimates for 1955 had been prepared within the broad framework of his reorganization proposals, and both items were therefore closely

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1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Supplement Nos. 5 and 5A, document A/2647 and Add.1.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7, document A/2688.

related, the Committee decided to deal with them simultaneously in the course of the general debate which, in keeping with past practice, preceded the first reading of the budget estimates for 1955. The Committee's discussion and recommendations in respect of the organization of the Secretariat which had been referred to the Committee by the General Assembly under item 53 of the agenda, have been recorded in a separate report (A/C.5/L.325). The present report is limited to the Committee's discussion of the budget estimates.

8. The general discussion was preceded by statements made by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/580) and by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee (A/C.5/581) which summarized the budget situation in general and made specific reference to those recommendations of the Advisory Committee which differed from the proposals submitted by the Secretary-General. In the paragraphs recorded below, further detailed comment is given on these questions.

9. The opinion was widely shared among delegations that the Fifth Committee's examination of the budget estimates was greatly facilitated by the considerable area of agreement between the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee, both of whom assumed a significant responsibility in guiding the Fifth Committee in the discharge of its functions.

10. The majority of the Committee's members expressed the view that the Secretary-General should be commended for presenting estimates which showed a reduction of over \$1,000,000 by comparison with 1954. Members recognized that budgetary savings should not be sought as an end in themselves, but experience had shown that an expanding budget and an increasing staff did not necessarily provide the best conditions for the proper functioning of the Secretariat. The 1955 budget estimates, presented at a reduced level and providing for a reduction in total staff, marked a praiseworthy reversal of the trend of previous years, and many delegations recorded their tribute to this achievement of the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General believed that the reorganization plan, when fully implemented, would lead to a saving of two million dollars by comparison with the 1954 level of appropriations. That policy of retrenchment, it was noted, contrasted sharply with the steady increase in expenditure of some of the specialized agencies.

11. It was considered that the further reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee, which, if approved, would reduce the estimates by a sum of \$420,550, should be carefully weighed by the Committee. Although the validity of the Secretary-General's statement that his estimates as presented left little margin for further cuts was appreciated, a number of Members urged that the Committee should take the necessary steps to remain within the lower figure recommended by the Advisory Committee, since it appeared that the modest economies recommended could be achieved without detriment to the efficiency of the Secretariat.

12. Several delegations reaffirmed the view they had expressed at previous meetings that nothing should be done to impede or retard the work which the United Nations was carrying out for the promotion of economic and social advancement, particularly in the matter of economic development of under-developed countries, and in the field of trusteeship. They were not prepared to give their support to any reduction in expenditure for these purposes without the unqualified assurance that the programmes of the United Nations in these fields, would go forward as planned.

13. Other delegations remained convinced that the 1955 budget estimates could be further reduced and they indicated the manner in which, in their opinion, the objective of attaining a budget at a figure of \$35,000,000 could be achieved. They considered that Sections 5 and 5A (Field Missions and the Field Service) and Section 19 (High Commissioner for Refugees) provided for the maintenance of organs which had been set up illegally and that they should be deleted from the estimates. A speeding up of the reorganization programme to achieve its full implementation in the shortest possible time, together with the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee and the effecting of the proposed deletions and of other economies in a number of particular cases to which they drew the Committee's attention, should make possible an overall reduction in expenditure of some \$5,000,000 dollars.

14. Favourable comment on the manner of presentation of the 1955 budget was made by a number of delegations. Some urged however that while the concentration into single sections of budget provisions for temporary assistance and consultants, and for travel of staff, might have a useful effect in permitting a closer control to be maintained on overall expenditure for those items, facilitating their

eventual stabilization at a reasonable amount, more detailed information on the apportionment of these expenditures among the various departments should be given in future budgets. It was also hoped that future estimates for the Publications programme would be accompanied by a schedule of details similar to that given in previous years.

15. The Committee undertook an initial examination of the budgetary requirements of the United Nations for the year 1955, for each section of the estimates, using as a basis for its discussion the recommendations contained in the second report of the Advisory Committee to the ninth session of the General Assembly. The Committee's decisions relating to individual sections are recorded below.

16. Apart from the discussion of the budget sections, the Committee considered a number of other administrative and financial questions with a direct bearing on the budget.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY  
OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17. In the course of its proceedings, the Committee was requested to deal with a number of items resulting from action in other Committees. The recommendations made in the present report provide for the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly on those items.

18. The Fifth Committee made its separate recommendations on these items to the General Assembly. In most of the cases, such recommendations involved an amendment to the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses; in several cases, however, the recommendations made necessitated either an increase in the 1955 budget, or an indication that any resulting expenditures could be met within the budget total as recommended. These actions covered the following items:

- (i) Treatment of people of Indian Origin in the Union of South Africa: report of the United Nations Good Offices Commission [22] draft resolution adopted by the Ad Hoc Political Committee; A/2785; resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses -
- (ii) Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its Sixth Session [49] draft resolution adopted by the Sixth Committee; A/2821; resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses -
- (iii) International co-operation in developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy: report of the United States of America [67] draft resolution adopted by the First Committee; A/2820; resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses -
- (iv) Economic development of under-developed countries: question of establishment of a special United Nations fund for economic development [25 a]; draft resolution adopted by the Second Committee; A/2848; sections 1 and 24;
- (v) Report of the Economic and Social Council (Chapters IV and V): United Nations Narcotics Laboratory [12]; draft resolution adopted by the Third Committee; A/2865; no specific provision;
- (vi) The question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Union of South Africa [23]; draft resolution adopted by the Ad Hoc Political Committee; A/2858; resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses;

- (vii) The question of the frontier between the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration and Ethiopia [13]; draft resolution adopted by the Fourth Committee; A/2859; resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses;
- (viii) Establishment of a world food reserve [66]; draft resolution adopted by the Second Committee; A/2863; no specific provision;
- (ix) Economic development of fisheries and question of fishery conservation and regulation [65]; draft resolution adopted by the Sixth Committee; A/2870; resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses;
- (x) The Togoland Unification problem and the future of the Trust Territory of Togoland under United Kingdom Trusteeship [35] and [52]; draft resolution adopted by the Fourth Committee; A/2874; section 4.

## VISITORS' SERVICE

19. At its 478th meeting, the Fifth Committee discussed the budget action to be taken upon a new section of the budget - Section 10.a: Visitors' Service - on the basis of a report by the Secretary-General dealing with the Guided Tours Programme (A/C.5/603) and a report on the subject by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/2811).
20. The principal features of the Secretary-General's proposals were:
- (a) to bring under the immediate and exclusive responsibility of the United Nations Secretariat the Guided Tour Service which is at present managed by the American Association for the United Nations on a contractual basis;
  - (b) to combine the service with that part of the Internes Programme which is related to the training of university students. Professional guides would continue to be employed. In the initial stages the number of guide-internes would be about forty, providing for an establishment of twenty working guides daily as against between sixty-nine and eighty professional guides at present employed. Subsequently, however, the ratio of guide-internes to professional guides might be increased.
21. As regards point (a) above, the Secretary-General took the position, in which the Advisory Committee concurred, that a question of principle was at issue, namely, "whether so vital a part of the total public relations programme of the United Nations should continue to be handled by a non-governmental organization of a Member State". When initially consulted on the subject during August 1951, the Advisory Committee had recommended to the Secretary-General that, as a matter of principle, the guided tour service should be placed under the direct control and operation of the United Nations, and more recently it had expressed the view that, as the service was essentially in the nature of a public relations programme, it would be appropriate, from the standpoint of orthodox administrative and budgetary practice, that it should form an integral part of the Secretariat. Both the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee, however, paid tribute to the manner in which the guided tour programme had been conducted by the American Association for the United Nations.



22. As regards point (b) above, the Secretary-General proposed that each year a certain number of students should be appointed to internships at Headquarters, to be combined with duties as guide-lecturers. Other points of difference with the existing programme for university students would be the extension of the term of the internship from approximately two to twelve months and the payment by the United Nations of the travel expenses of the internes, at present defrayed by the Governments concerned. The Secretary-General indicated that promising results were obtained under a similar arrangement during the summers of 1953 and 1954 when "with a view to broadening the multi-national character of the regular guides, a group of students from various countries was included in the Guide Service".

23. On this question, the Advisory Committee suggested that while any lowering of the present standard of efficiency or any avoidable increase in operating costs of guided tour service would be undesirable, the desirability of expanding the Interne Programme was a question of importance that required exhaustive study in isolation from the question of the guided tour programme. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee also asked whether the results achieved under the present Interne Programme and those anticipated under a revised programme providing for an extended tenure in fact promoted the broader objectives of the programme, which were to contribute to a more informed understanding of the purposes and work of the Organization and to afford the internes an opportunity of practical training in techniques of many kinds.

24. The Advisory Committee, accordingly, felt unable to recommend a combination of the Guided Tour Service with any part of the Interne Programme. It considered that entirely separate processes of budgeting and administration for these two activities offered distinct advantages and would ensure a clear presentation of respective costs. In this connexion, that Committee also suggested that the heavy indirect costs (estimated at some \$90,000) attributable to the operation of the Guided Tour Service should be a charge against receipts.

25. The Advisory Committee also suggested that with the integration of the Guided Tour Service in the Secretariat, it would be open to the Secretary-General to assign to that service, as one of many Secretariat units, students coming to Headquarters under the Interne Programme, and in that way to test, on an

experimental and provisional basis, the merits of a scheme under which the use of professional guides and internes might be combined.

26. At the 478th meeting of the Committee, the Secretary-General stated that he was prepared, for the time being, to accept the Advisory Committee's recommendation with regard to the separation of the Interne Programme from the Guided Tour Service. Further, while the present eight-week programme of student internship would be retained, he proposed to have a small additional group of internes for a longer period. This group would be assigned from time to time, on an experimental basis as suggested by the Advisory Committee, to the Guided Tour Service. To facilitate the plan, the Secretary-General requested an additional appropriation of \$32,000 in Section 15, Chapter IV, towards the cost of the additional internship programme.

27. In the discussion on this matter in the Committee, the proposed integration of the Guided Tour Service in the Secretariat of the United Nations received much support. At the same time appreciation was expressed for the valuable work which had been carried out by the American Association for the United Nations. The point was also made that the service had been efficiently and properly run by that organization and there appeared to be little advantage to be gained in making the radical change now proposed. Several delegations also supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation on the desirability of keeping the Interne Programme separate from the Guided Tour Service.

28. The Committee took the following budget actions based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the revised proposals made by the Secretary-General:

- (a) Approved unanimously the Secretary-General's proposal for the inclusion in the appropriation resolution of an additional section 10.a, Visitors' Service, to the amount of \$290,000 which was the amount originally requested by the Secretary-General for the Service excluding the guide-interne programme;
- (b) Approved by 35 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions, the Secretary-General's proposal that the appropriation for section 15 (Common Staff Costs) be increased by \$32,000 to facilitate the extension of the interne programme;
- (c) Approved by 35 votes to none, with 5 abstentions, the Secretary-General's proposal that the estimate for Miscellaneous Income for 1955 from the Guided Tour Service, which had earlier been approved at \$225,000, be increased to \$525,000.

29. In connection with the question raised by the Advisory Committee, regarding the allocation of indirect expenses to the cost of this service as well as to other commercial-type activities, the Committee noted that it was the Secretary-General's intention to study this matter and to report upon it when presenting the budget estimates for 1956.

PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS OF INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION  
AND WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

30. At its 480th and 482nd meetings, the Committee considered, in connexion with the 1955 budget estimates, the question of the permanent headquarters of the International Telecommunications Union and the World Meteorological Organization. The Committee had before it a report (A/C.5/604) by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee's comments (A/2812) on the Secretary-General's report.

31. The Secretary-General, in his report (A/C.5/604), gave an account of the developments in the matter and of the solutions that had been envisaged. In the Spring of 1954, both the specialized agencies concerned received offers from the Canton of Geneva for the erection either of a single building to house both of them or of two separate buildings to be rented to the agencies at an annual rent of three per cent of the cost of construction. In both events, the building(s) would be outside the precincts of the Palais des Nations. These arrangements, if implemented, would effectively and permanently prevent the installation of the agencies on United Nations ground and thus render more difficult the development of common services by the United Nations and the agencies. The Secretary-General, therefore, informed both the agencies that if they on their part were willing to envisage the establishment of their permanent headquarters within the United Nations precincts and to enter into an agreement on common services with the United Nations, he would undertake to consult the General Assembly on its willingness eventually to consider financing construction of the necessary accommodation from United Nations funds. Both agencies expressed interest in this alternative proposition and agreed to defer their decision on the offer made by the Canton of Geneva until the 1955 meetings of their administrative bodies. Accordingly, the Secretary-General asked the General Assembly whether it was willing to give at this stage an assurance that it would, in principle, be prepared at its next regular session to approve expenditures estimated approximately at between one and three quarters and two-and a half million dollars to finance the erection of a building or buildings on United Nations ground in Geneva to accommodate the headquarters of the two

agencies provided that, in the meantime, the appropriate bodies of these agencies had agreed to suitable plans and to reasonable arrangements in the matters of finance and common services. The Secretary-General emphasized that the declaration of intention now requested from the Assembly would leave to the Assembly its freedom of action, if the final plans and other proposed arrangements did not meet with its approval.

32. The Advisory Committee, in its report (A/2812) recommended that, subject to certain reservations including those stated in paragraph 2 above, the General Assembly should give the suggested assurance.

33. During the discussion of this matter in the Committee, there was general recognition of the need to develop common services by the United Nations and the specialized agencies. From that point of view several delegations supported the suggestion that the permanent headquarters of the two agencies in question should be located on United Nations ground. One delegation, however, expressed the view that the financial arrangements involved should be the responsibility of the agencies themselves and that, although it would be in order for the United Nations to assist them by means of an advance or loan from the Working Capital Fund, the costs should not be a direct charge on the regular budget of the United Nations.

34. The Director of the European Office of the United Nations explained in a statement he made before the Committee at its 480th meeting the importance of the building(s) being owned by the United Nations. Otherwise, the position would be complicated from the legal point of view as United Nations territory was extra-territorial. He also estimated the annual rent which would be received from the agencies at approximately \$50,000.

35. At its 482nd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee further explained that Committee's position in this matter. He emphasized the need for action by the Assembly if the Assembly's stated policy of developing common services and of concentrating resources was to be realized.

36. In the light of the clarifications provided, some delegations which had had misgivings at an earlier stage about the assurance requested by the Secretary-General expressed their willingness to support the suggestion, provided that the costs of construction were financed out of the Working Capital Fund rather than from the regular budget of the United Nations.

37. The Committee approved by 31 votes to 5, with no abstentions, the Secretary-General's proposal subject to the reservations made by the Advisory Committee in its report (A/2812). It was also understood that the agencies concerned would be informed that they should not reject the offer of the Canton of Geneva until the position of the United Nations had been determined by the General Assembly at its tenth session.

USE OF INCOME DERIVED FROM THE STAFF ASSESSMENT  
PLAN

38. At the 471st to 474th meetings, the Committee considered the question of the use of income derived from the Staff Assessment Plan in relation to the problem of national income taxation levied on salaries and emoluments paid by the United Nations to its officials. It may be recalled in this connexion that during the eighth session of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee concurred in a recommendation made by the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General be requested to submit to the Assembly at its ninth session a report aimed at a solution of this problem.

39. The Committee had before it a report by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/584 and Corr.2), the nineteenth report of the Advisory Committee to the ninth session of the General Assembly (A/2799) and a further note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/L.315).

40. In his report (A/C.5/584) the Secretary-General pointed out that although equality among staff members had been achieved through reimbursement by the Organization of any national taxes paid by them on salaries and emoluments they received from the Organization, equity among Member States in their burden in regard to such national taxation had not been attained. As a long step towards achieving such equity among Member States the Secretary-General suggested a possible solution under which the reimbursement of national tax levied by a Member State on the salaries received by its nationals in the Secretariat would be charged against that Member State's share of the income derived from the Staff Assessment Plan.

41. The Advisory Committee while commending the Secretary-General for his determined efforts to find a solution to this problem stressed that the only fully satisfactory solution was that all Member States should accede to the Convention On Privileges and Immunities. It therefore recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to continue his conversations with the seventeen Member States who had not acceded to the Convention on Privileges and Immunities with a view to their acceding to the Convention or at least adopting alternative measures, whether legislative or administrative, whereby all United Nations officials might be granted the necessary tax exemption. The Advisory Committee

further recommended that no action be taken on the Secretary-General's tentative plan for the time being.

42. At an early stage of the discussion of this matter in the Committee, the delegation of the United States expressed its preparedness to give the following undertaking: The United States Government would give careful study in 1955 to the various methods by which the problem could be solved. If no better method were found, it would have no objection if the General Assembly decided at its tenth session that all Member States who, on the date on which the session opened, had not ratified the Convention on Privileges and Immunities or granted the necessary tax exemption to their nationals who were United Nations staff members, should cease on 1 January 1956 to receive the benefit of the revenue derived from the application of the Staff Assessment Plan.

43. There was general concern in the Committee that the unsatisfactory situation resulting from the fact that certain Member States had not exempted their nationals in the Secretariat from taxation on the salaries paid to them by the United Nations continued to exist in spite of several resolutions of the Assembly requesting such exemption or alternative relief from double taxation. It was noted that as regards the practical aspects of the problem, the position of the United States in the matter had placed a financial burden on the fifty-nine other Member States in meeting the expenditures for reimbursement of taxes levied by the United States Government on the salaries paid to its nationals in the Secretariat. In this connexion, it was noted that in respect of the years up to and including 1953, a total amount of about \$9,000,000 had been expended or obligated for tax reimbursement.

44. Nevertheless, many delegations were prepared to accept the Advisory Committee's recommendation and postpone consideration of the Secretary-General's tentative plan until the tenth session of the Assembly on the basis of the undertaking given by the United States delegation. The views of these delegations were reflected in a draft resolution (A/C.5/L.316) proposed by the Netherlands delegation.

45. Some delegations, on the other hand, thought that further postponement of the solution to the problem which had remained unsolved for more than eight years could not be justified. In this connexion it was pointed out that the Secretary-



General had offered a tentative solution expressly at the request of the Fifth Committee at the eight session of the Assembly, based on a recommendation by the Advisory Committee. The view was expressed that the Secretary-General's plan should be adopted pending accession by Member States to the Convention on Privileges and Immunities. A formal proposal to this effect was made by the Polish representative who also requested that the Secretary-General's plan, being farthest removed from the existing system, should be voted on first. In this connexion, it was further pointed out that the Netherlands draft resolution concerned the substance of the question, and was not procedural, inasmuch as its adoption would imply the Committee's approval of the payment of about \$1,650,000 in reimbursement of taxation in 1955.

46. The Netherlands representative pointed out that he had merely proposed that the examination of the Secretary-General's report should be postponed and that the question should be referred to the tenth session of the Assembly; as such, it was procedural in character.

47. The Chairman then put to the vote the Netherlands draft resolution (A/C.5/L.316) which was adopted by 35 votes to 5, with 6 abstentions. The Polish proposal was, in the circumstances, not proceeded with.

48. The Committee accordingly recommends for adoption by the General Assembly the draft resolution contained in Annex D to this report.

INCREASE IN THE DEPENDENCY CREDIT UNDER THE STAFF ASSESSMENT PLAN  
FOR THE STAFF AT HEADQUARTERS

49. At its 482nd meeting, the Committee considered, in connexion with the 1955 budget estimates, a proposal made by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/612) for an increase in the dependency credit under the Staff Assessment Plan for staff members at Headquarters. The Committee had also before it a report on the proposal from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/2845).

50. The Secretary-General's proposal which was submitted as a temporary measure, pending a comprehensive review of the system and rates of dependency credit which would be undertaken during 1955 by a committee of experts to be appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with the executive heads of the specialized agencies, sought to increase the dependency credit for Headquarters<sup>1/</sup> staff in the following manner effective 1 January 1955:

Present dependency credit

- (a) A credit at the rate of \$200 per annum shall be granted for a wife, or a dependent husband, or a dependent child;
- (b) A credit at the rate of \$100 per annum shall be granted for a dependent parent, brother, sister or incapacitated child over 16 years of age;
- (c) A credit shall not be granted under both paragraphs (a) and (b) above.

Proposed dependency credit

- (a) A credit at the rate of \$200 per annum shall be granted for a wife, or a dependent husband, or a dependent parent, brother or sister, or a dependent child or a mentally or physically incapacitated child over 16 years of age;
- (b) An additional credit at the rate of \$100 per annum shall be granted for each additional dependent child, for whom credit has not been granted under paragraph (a) above.

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<sup>1/</sup> In this context, the term "Headquarters" includes Washington, D.C.

The Secretary-General's main reason for making the proposal was the inequity under the present system between staff members without dependents or with one dependent and those with several dependents. This inequity had become increasingly significant at Headquarters partly because of the elimination of certain allowances and partly because of increasing costs of housing, medical and dental care, household help and transportation, all of which were very substantial for staff members with dependents. The Secretary-General had also submitted an appropriate draft resolution incorporating his proposals for consideration by the General Assembly.

51. The Advisory Committee, in its report (A/2845), recognized that there was a case, particularly in view of the high cost of accommodations in the New York area, for some increase for staff at Headquarters in respect of the expenses of maintaining dependents. That Committee, therefore, recommended approval of the plan proposed by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/612), subject to the following reservations:

- (a) that it should come into force for one year only and it would then be reviewed in the light of the findings of the expert committee (paragraph 2 above);

- (b) that the rates of assessment laid down in the Staff Assessment Plan (article 3 of General Assembly resolution 359 (IV) of 10 December 1949) should also be reviewed during 1955.

52. In the discussion of this matter in the Committee, it was generally recognized that there were inequities in the treatment accorded to married staff members with dependents under the Staff Assessment Plan. There was also a large measure of support for the conclusions of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee. Some delegations, however, thought that as the matter would shortly be reviewed by an expert committee (paragraph 2 above), any decision should be deferred until the report of the expert committee became available. The view was also expressed, in this connexion, that any decision on this question that might be taken as a result of the review by the expert committee could, if necessary, be implemented with some measure of retroactivity.

53. The representative of the United States suggested the insertion in the draft resolution proposed by the Secretary-General of a preamble reading: "The General Assembly, recognizing that an inequity of treatment exists under the Staff Assessment Plan between staff members with dependents and those without dependents". He further suggested that the first paragraph of the operative part of the draft resolution be amended to read: "Resolves that, as a temporary measure, notwithstanding article 4 of resolution 359 (IV) of 10 December 1949, the following dependency credits shall be given between 1 January 1955 and 31 December 1955 to staff members stationed at Headquarters or at Washington, D.C.". There was no objection in the Committee to the insertion of the preamble or to the rewording of the operative part.
54. At the request of the representative of the United States, the preamble and the operative part were put to the vote separately. The preamble was adopted by 48 votes to none, with 1 abstention, and the operative part, as amended, by 40 votes to 8, with 2 abstentions.
55. The Committee adopted the draft resolution, as amended, by 39 votes to 9. Accordingly, the Committee recommends for adoption by the General Assembly the draft resolution included as Annex E to this report.

## MISCELLANEOUS INCOME

56. At its 480th meeting, the Committee considered, on first reading, the estimates for Miscellaneous income for 1955. The Advisory Committee in its main report (A/2688), had recommended an estimate of miscellaneous income in the amount of \$6,783,100, an increase of \$10,000 to the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General (A/2647).

57. Referring to the fact that the cash position of the Working Capital Fund had been somewhat better in recent experience, the representative of Czechoslovakia proposed that the estimate for income from investments be increased by \$40,000.

58. The representative of the Byelorussian SSR proposed that the estimate for income for reimbursement from specialized agencies and others for services furnished them should be increased by \$15,000.

59. The Fifth Committee rejected, by 34 votes to 5, with one abstention, the proposal by Czechoslovakia; and by 32 votes to 6, with 2 abstentions, the proposal by the Byelorussian SSR.

60. The Committee approved, by 35 votes to 5, the initial recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an estimate of \$6,783,100 for miscellaneous income for 1955, noting that this amount was subject to a number of adjustments in respect of items on which it had already taken or was to take decisions.

61. For its second reading of the estimates for miscellaneous income, the Committee had before it, at its 483rd meeting, a report by the Secretary-General on the budgetary position (A/C.5/614/Rev.1). As Annex B to that report, there was a statement of the adjustments required to the figure of \$6,783,100, with references to the decisions resulting in these adjustments. The major adjustments arose from the decisions of the Committee on (i) the creation of a Special Indemnity Fund for the payment of awards made by the Administrative Tribunal on which the Fifth Committee had reported separately to the General Assembly (A/C.5/L.324), and (ii) the Visitors' Service and the increase in dependency credits on which the Committee's action is reported in the general introduction to this report. An increase of \$100,000 in the estimates was occasioned by the contemplated arrangements for the financing of paper purchases.

under which stocks on hand in the value of \$100,000 would be charged against an advance from the Working Capital Fund with a corresponding credit to be reflected in the estimates for miscellaneous income. The contemplated arrangements in this regard had the concurrence of the Advisory Committee.

62. The Fifth Committee approved, by 36 votes to 5, the revised estimate of \$6,832,600. This amount has accordingly been included in paragraph 2 of the draft appropriation resolution for 1955, set out as draft resolution A below.

## WORKING CAPITAL FUND

63. At its 483rd meeting, the Fifth Committee considered the draft resolution relating to the Working Capital Fund as submitted by the Advisory Committee on pages 16 and 17 of its report A/2688.

64. The representative of the USSR, pointing to the fact that the appropriations for 1955 would be lower than those for 1954 with a consequent decrease in demands for working capital, proposed that paragraph 1(b) of the draft resolution submitted by the Advisory Committee should be deleted, and that the Working Capital Fund should be reduced accordingly for 1955 to a level of \$20,000,000 rather than maintained at the figure of \$21,500,000 as recommended by the Advisory Committee. The representative of the Secretary-General informed the Fifth Committee that, though the cash position of the Organization had been somewhat better during 1954 than in previous years, there was as yet, in the opinion of the Secretary-General, insufficient experience to indicate that a reduction in the level of the Working Capital Fund would be prudent.

65. The Committee rejected, by 28 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, the proposal of the USSR; and approved, by 30 votes to 5, the draft resolution recommended by the Advisory Committee.

66. The Fifth Committee accordingly recommends to the General Assembly the draft resolution relating to the Working Capital Fund as set out in draft resolution C at the end of this report.

FIRST READING OF THE 1955 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Section 1 - The General Assembly  
Commissions and Committees

67. The Committee at its 450th meeting examined the estimates for section 1. The Advisory Committee had recommended in its main report an appropriation of \$373,000 for this section as proposed by the Secretary-General.

68. This section contained provision, inter alia, under Chapter IV, in the amount of \$50,000 for the 1955 session of the International Law Commission estimated on the basis of an eight week session to be held at New York. Subsequently, the International Law Commission had decided in accordance with the provisions of its Statute, that its 1955 session should be held in Geneva, that the duration of that session should be ten weeks, and that simultaneous interpretation in Spanish should be provided. Thus, the Secretary-General had submitted revised estimates (A/C.5/587) for this purpose, involving an increase under section 1 of \$14,300 and under section 18 (European Office of the United Nations) of \$12,500.

69. The Advisory Committee, in its tenth report (A/2766) had agreed with the revised cost estimates submitted by the Secretary-General but had recommended, on administrative and budgetary grounds, that the additional cost involved in meeting in Geneva, as an item of avoidable expenditure, should not be approved. The Advisory Committee had pointed out that in any case the extension of the duration of the 1955 session of the International Law Commission would involve an additional expenditure of \$7,350 if that meeting were held at Headquarters, and had recommended that this additional amount be provided, thus raising the total recommended for section 1 to \$380,350.

70. The Committee, while recognizing that the International Law Commission had acted in accordance with its Statute, reaffirmed the authority of the General Assembly to take under consideration the decision to meet in Geneva, and, in so far as the financial implications of that decision were concerned, the Fifth Committee's competence to express its agreement or disagreement.



71. Several delegations supported the view expressed by the Advisory Committee that the additional expenditure involved should not be approved. Other delegations, however, pointing out the importance of the work of the International Law Commission, and the facilities at Geneva, including those of the Library, particularly suitable for that work, felt that the decision of the International Law Commission should be upheld.

72. The Committee approved, by 26 votes to 18, with 4 abstentions, a proposal by the Netherlands that the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 1 be increased by \$6,950, from \$380,350 to \$387,300, which would provide, inter alia, sufficient funds for the International Law Commission to meet in Geneva in 1955.

73. Subsequently the Committee approved, in connexion with a draft resolution adopted by the Second Committee concerning a United Nations Fund for economic development, a statement of financial implications (see A/2848) involving an increase of \$15,400 for this section. The draft resolution concerned having been adopted by the General Assembly, the appropriation for this section was accordingly increased by \$15,400 to \$402,700.

#### Section 2 - The Security Council, Commissions and Committees

74. At its 451st meeting, the Committee approved unanimously the maintenance of Section 2 pro forma in the 1955 budget, noting that should funds be required under this section, supplementary estimates would be submitted.

#### Section 3 - The Economic and Social Council, Commissions and Committees

75. The original estimates for Section 3 having been prepared before the eighteenth session of the Economic and Social Council, revised estimates for this section had been submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/582 and Corr.1), reflecting the effect on the estimates of certain decisions taken at that session. The Advisory Committee had reported its views on the revised estimates in its eighth report (A/2763 and Corr.1).

76. The Advisory Committee, in its main report, had recommended that the Secretary-General's original estimates for this section be reduced by \$9,500 to \$150,000. While recognizing that a substantial reduction had been made in the staff assigned to meetings held in Geneva under the approved pattern of conferences, which included the annual summer session of the Council, the Advisory Committee was of the opinion that some further reduction was possible. The Advisory Committee also considered it possible to reduce the number of staff to be sent to the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders.

77. The decisions of the eighteenth session of the Economic and Social Council had resulted in a net reduction of \$6,900 in the funds required for section 3. The Advisory Committee had concurred in the revised estimate of \$143,100 for the section.

78. The Committee considered the estimates for section 3 at its 451st meeting.

79. Certain delegations were of the opinion that the activities of the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (Chapter XV) and the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (Chapter XVI) constituted an unjustified interference in the domestic affairs of Member States and were contrary to the principle and purposes of the Charter. One delegation, however, pointed out that it would be difficult to reach any conclusion on this matter until recommendations or proposals were made by these bodies. A proposal by Czechoslovakia that provision for meetings of the two bodies concerned should be deleted from the budget was rejected by 26 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.

80. In the course of consideration of other items in the budget, the Committee was informed that it had been assumed by the Secretary-General, when calculating the effects of the decisions of the eighteenth session of the Economic and Social Council, and proposing a reduction in the provision for the summer session of the Council itself, that the shortening of that session from six weeks to four would mean that there would be fewer items on the agenda and that thus the number of substantive officers to be sent to Geneva would be smaller. There was no intention, however, to reduce the quality of services to the Council.

81. The Advisory Committee, in commenting on the shortening of the length of the summer session of the Council, had drawn attention to the fact that on the basis of the pattern of conference for 1954-1957 which had been established at the seventh session of the General Assembly, certain transfers of French and Spanish translation staff from Headquarters to Geneva had taken place. Care would have to be exercised that changes in the conference pattern did not result in an imbalance of workload between Headquarters and Geneva staff. This could be offset by changes in the allotment of translation work not pertinent to current meetings.
82. The Committee approved, by 39 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that \$143,100 be appropriated for Section 3.

Section 3a - Permanent Central Opium Board  
and Drug Supervisory Body

83. The Advisory Committee, in its main report, had recommended an appropriation for section 3a in the amount of \$22,400, a reduction of \$1,900 from the Secretary-General's estimate. The Advisory Committee had also noted that should the 1953 Opium Protocol come into force in 1955, an additional session of the Central Board might be necessary, at an estimated additional cost of \$9,700, to be financed out of the Working Capital Fund as an extraordinary commitment. In such a case, the Advisory Committee would review the related estimate prior to an advance from that Fund.
84. At its 450th meeting, the Fifth Committee had approved payment of certain honoraria to the Presidents, Vice-Presidents and members of the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Drug Supervisory Body on the basis of a scale of payments recommended by the Advisory Committee in its twelfth report (A/2780) issued under agenda item 47. This approval required an increase of \$4,800 to the amount originally recommended by the Advisory Committee, or a total under section 3a of \$27,200.
85. At its 451st meeting, the Committee approved, by 37 votes to 1, with 6 abstentions, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$27,200 for section 3a.

Section 3b - Regional Economic Commissions

86. For Section 3b, covering costs of sessions of the Economic Commissions for Asia and the Far East, and for Latin America, the Advisory Committee had recommended in its main report, an appropriation of \$101,700 representing a reduction of \$8,000 from the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General. The \$8,000 reduction was to be distributed equally between the two Commissions.

87. In its report the Advisory Committee had pointed to the fact that the sessions of each of the Commissions were being held away from the seat of the Commission, and noted that it had not been possible for the Committee to be provided with information on the extent of the contribution of host countries, in cash or services, to the costs of these sessions. The report also drew attention to the fact that ECAFE had not so far accepted a suggestion that in alternate years its sessions should be held at its headquarters, and to the fact that the Advisory Committee had previously commented on the economy resulting from the practice followed by ECLA of scheduling a plenary session in alternate years only, with a Committee of the Whole meeting in the interval. The reductions proposed by the Committee were based on its opinion that it should be possible to reduce the number of staff to be moved to the respective meeting places.

88. The Fifth Committee considered the estimates for section 3b at its 451st meeting. Several delegations requested an assurance that the proposed reduction would not affect the work of the two commissions. The Committee was informed that the Secretary-General submitted his original estimates as reasonable calculations of the funds required to provide particular services. On the other hand, the Secretary-General was always prepared to make economies, and could not state a priori that the savings suggested could not be achieved. He would attempt to provide ECAFE and ECLA with the necessary services within the sums recommended by the Advisory Committee: if that were found impossible, he would rely on the Advisory Committee to approve additional provisions by transfer of funds or by granting him authority to make commitments under the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

89. The Committee approved unanimously the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$101,700 under Section 3b.

Section 4 - The Trusteeship Council,  
Commissions and Committees

90. At its 451st meeting, the Committee approved without objection the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$50,000 for section 4, as estimated by the Secretary-General, noting that the amount was subject to adjustment if necessary when the actual requirements for the 1955 Visiting Mission became known.

91. Subsequently the Fifth Committee approved, in connexion with a draft resolution adopted by the Fourth Committee on the Togoland unification problem and the future of the Trust Territory of Togoland under United Kingdom Trusteeship, a statement of financial implications (see A/2874) involving an increase of \$50,000 for this section. The draft resolution concerned having been adopted by the General Assembly, the appropriation for this section was accordingly increased by \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Section 5 - Special Missions and related activities

92. To provide for the requirements of the United Nations missions and related activities, the Advisory Committee, in its main report (A/2688) had recommended, on a provisional basis, a global appropriation of \$1,900,000. Subsequently, detailed estimates were submitted by the Secretary-General in amplification of the global appropriation, in addition to which the Committee, as a basis for its consideration, had before it, in respect of each item, separate reports of the Advisory Committee.

93. For reasons set out in the summary records of the Fifth and other Committees, certain representatives expressed their opposition to the provisions of credits for some of these activities.

94. The Fifth Committee took the following decisions with regard to the several activities in the order set out in the budget estimates of the Secretary-General (A/2647):

95. Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration: Having examined the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General (A/2647) and the report of the Advisory Committee (A/2824), the Fifth Committee, at its 477th meeting, rejected by 37 votes to 5, a proposal of the Byelorussian SSR that the provision of the Advisory Council be deleted from the 1955 budget. It approved by 38 votes to 5 an appropriation of \$130,500 for the Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration.

96. United Nations Tribunal for Libya: Having considered the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General (A/2647) and the report of the Advisory Committee (A/2823), the Fifth Committee, at its 477th meeting rejected by 37 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, a proposal of the Byelorussian SSR that the provision for the Tribunal be deleted from the 1955 budget. It approved by 36 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, an appropriation of \$104,500 for the United Nations Tribunal in Libya.

97. Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan: At its 467th meeting, the Fifth Committee, having before it the estimates by the Secretary General (A/C.5/585) and the report of the Advisory Committee (A/2787), rejected by 34 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, a proposal by Czechoslovakia that the provision of \$462,000 for this activity be deleted from the 1955 budget. It approved, by 36 votes to 5, an appropriation of \$462,000 for the Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan.

98. Repatriation of Greek Children: The Committee considered, at its 467 meeting, the estimates by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/589) and the report of the Advisory Committee (A/2768) on this item. It rejected, by 36 votes to 5, a proposal by Czechoslovakia that the provision of \$5,000 for this purpose be deleted from the 1955 budget, and approved, by 36 votes to 5, an appropriation of \$5,000 for expenditures in 1955 in connexion with the repatriation of Greek children.

99. Truce Supervision Organization for Palestine: At its 467th meeting, the Committee considered the estimates of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/592) and the report of the Advisory Committee (A/2791) on this item; and approved, by 36 votes to 5, an appropriation of \$644,000 for the Truce Supervision Organization for Palestine.

100. United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea: At its 482nd meeting, the Committee considered the provisions for this Commission on the basis of the estimates of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/613) and the report of the Advisory Committee (A/2851). It rejected by 33 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions, a proposal by the USSR that provision for this Commission be deleted from the 1955 budget, and approved, by 37 votes to 5, an appropriation of \$163,000 for the Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea.

101. United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine: On the basis of the Secretary-General's estimates (A/C.5/590) and the Advisory Committee's report (A/2790) the Fifth Committee, at its 467th meeting, approved by 35 votes to 5 an appropriation of \$52,100 for the Conciliation Commission for Palestine.

102. Korean Service Medals: The Committee considered this item at its 467th meeting, having before it the estimates of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/593) and the report of the Advisory Committee (A/2802). The Committee (i) rejected, by 32 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions, a proposal by Poland that no provision be made in the 1955 budget for Korean Service Medals, (ii) approved by 34 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions, that \$215,000 be appropriated for 1955 for these medals, and (iii) decided by 34 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions, that an additional paragraph be inserted in the resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses which would authorize the incurring of additional commitments not exceeding a total of \$165,000 for the purchase of these medals.

103. At the 483rd meeting of the Fifth Committee, during the second reading of the budget for 1955, the above amounts for section 5 were confirmed in the total of \$1,776,100, as recommended by the Advisory Committee.

Section 5a - United Nations Field Service

104. For its consideration, at its 482nd meeting, of the 1955 requirements of the United Nations Field Service, the Committee had before it the budget estimates of the Secretary-General (A/2647) and two reports of the Advisory Committee (A/2688 and A/2850). In the latter report, the Advisory Committee confirmed its previous provisional recommendation that \$484,000 be appropriated for 1955 for the Field Service.

105. A proposal was made by Czechoslovakia that no budget provision be made in 1955 for the Field Service, since in the opinion of that delegation the Field Service was inconsistent with the provisions of the Charter. The Czechoslovak proposal was rejected by 38 votes to 5. The Committee approved, by 38 votes to 5, an appropriation of \$484,000 for section 5a.



PART III. Headquarters, New York

106. In considering Part III of the budget estimates, which in sections 6 to 12 deals with the headquarters departments, the Committee had regard to its exhaustive debate on organization of the Secretariat. Many of the points made in the course of that debate had particular pertinence to the budget estimates for 1955, both general and with regard to specific activities.

107. Following an extensive debate on the question of salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank, the Committee decided at its 449th meeting to amend the Staff Regulations to provide salaries for Under-Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank in the amount of \$18,000 gross (\$12,500 net) and allowances of \$3,500 net. The effect of this decision on the budget estimates as originally submitted, on a different basis, was communicated to the Committee by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/600, and explained orally in greater detail as the various sections of the budget affected were considered.

108. Further, the Committee, in its decision on salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank had also authorized additional payments to be made for the purpose of reimbursing representational expenditures of these officials at Headquarters, not to exceed a total of \$50,000. A new section, section 23a, was included in the estimates to give effect to this decision.

109. In its main report on the budget estimates, the Advisory Committee had made its recommendations with reservations on the salaries and allowances of the high officials of the Secretariat, pending the proposals of the Secretary-General in this regard. The decision of the Fifth Committee, and the consequent adjustments referred to above, resolved these reservations.

110. As regards the number of Deputy Under-Secretaries, the Secretary-General had, in the course of the consideration of the Organization of the Secretariat, made proposals which similarly resulted in adjustments to the budget estimates. These adjustments were also reflected in document A/C.5/600 and explained when the pertinent sections were discussed.

Section 6. Offices of the Secretary-General

111. The Advisory Committee, in its main report, had recommended an appropriation for section 6 in the amount of \$2,117,900, as requested by the Secretary-General. As a result of the decision on salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank, this figure had been reduced by \$850 to \$2,117,050.
112. The Committee considered the estimates for this section at its 452nd meeting. On Chapter I, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, particular attention was paid to the Secretary-General's proposal to create a post of Social Counsel in the Executive Office and to the Advisory Committee's doubts on the proper location of the post. The Advisory Committee had expressed a preference for the post to be located in the Office of Personnel, but had agreed to the arrangement proposed by the Secretary-General on the understanding that the creation of the post itself and its location would be on an experimental basis and would be subject to review in the light of experience.
113. Several delegations, while agreeing with the Secretary-General's proposals in this regard, emphasized the fact that the arrangement should be considered experimental and should be reviewed in the light of experience. The Committee rejected by 38 votes to 5 with 3 abstentions, a proposal by the USSR that provision for the Social Counsel and his office be eliminated with a consequent reduction of \$23,000 in Chapter I.
114. On Chapter II - the Office of Legal Affairs, the Committee was assured that the attachment of the secretariat of the Administrative Tribunal to that office was for administrative purposes only, and that the necessary independence of that secretariat in the substance of its work would be carefully preserved. Further, the Chairman of the Administrative Tribunal had been consulted and had raised no objection. The Committee rejected, by 36 votes to 5 with 3 abstentions a proposal by Poland that one general service post which was eventually to be suppressed under the reorganization plans of the Secretary-General be eliminated from the 1955 budget with a corresponding reduction of \$5,200.
115. On Chapter III - Office of the Controller, the Committee rejected by 41 votes to 5 with 3 abstentions, a proposal by Poland that five posts eventually to be suppressed be eliminated in the 1955 budget with a saving of \$30,000.

116. On Chapter IV - Office of Personnel - the representative of Argentina made certain proposals for reductions in the estimates, feeling that recruitment examinations could more inexpensively be held at Information Centres or premises lent by Governments, and that savings would accrue if the International Civil Service Advisory Body met at New York rather than at Geneva. Following an explanation from the secretariat, he withdrew his proposal, hoping that his remarks would be taken into account in the preparation of future budgets for these items.

117. The representative of Poland proposed that the five posts scheduled for elimination under the reorganization plan be deleted from the 1955 budget with a saving of \$25,000 in this Chapter. The Committee rejected the proposal by 41 votes to 5 with 1 abstention.

118. On Chapter V - Internal Audit Service, the representative of Poland proposed a reduction of \$13,000 on the same grounds as had applied in the reductions proposed for Chapters II, III and IV. The Committee rejected the proposal by 41 votes to 5 with 1 abstention.

119. A similar proposal by the representative of Poland on Chapter VI - Health Service, for a reduction of \$3,000 was rejected by the Committee by 40 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

120. The Committee approved by 40 votes to 5 an appropriation for section 6 of \$2,117,050, as submitted by the Secretary-General and recommended by the Advisory Committee.

#### Section 6a. Office of the Under-Secretaries without portfolio

121. The Advisory Committee had recommended, in its main report, an appropriation in the amount requested by the Secretary-General of \$85,000 for section 6a, under which provision was made for a new office. The decision on salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank had resulted in a net reduction of \$8,350 in the Secretary-General's estimate, thus bringing to \$76,650 the amount recommended for this section.

122. At its 452nd meeting, the Committee approved unanimously on first reading an appropriation of \$76,650 for section 6a.

Section 7. Department of Political and  
Security Council Affairs

123. The Secretary-General had requested an appropriation of \$657,300 for section 7, and the Advisory Committee in its main report had recommended an appropriation in that amount. This section had not been affected by the decision on salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank. In its report, the Advisory Committee had drawn attention to the reduction in the establishment of this department proposed by the Secretariat and to the intention of the department to use its staff flexibility without narrow reference to divisional or sectional functions.

124. However, in the consideration of this section by the Committee at its 452nd meeting certain delegations felt that the further reductions eventually envisaged under the Secretary-General's organization plan for this department could be achieved in 1955. The representative of Poland proposed that the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee be reduced by \$80,000. Other delegations, while expressing their satisfaction with the plans of the Secretary-General for the organization of the department felt that those plans should be carried out gradually, and the proposal of Poland was rejected by 38 votes to 5.

125. The Committee approved, by 38 votes to 5, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General's estimates for section 7 for 1955 in the amount of \$657,300 be accepted.

Section 7a. Secretariat of the Military Staff Committee

126. The Committee considered section 7a at its 452nd meeting. The Advisory Committee had recommended the appropriation of \$109,200 for the Secretariat of the Military Staff Committee, as estimated by the Secretary-General.

127. The Advisory Committee's recommendation had been made, however, subject to reservations regarding the most efficacious organizational arrangement to ensure full-time employment of the staff of the Secretariat. Recognizing the security aspects of the work of the Military Staff Committee, the Advisory Committee was nevertheless of the opinion that the secretariat of the Military Staff Committee could be transferred to Conference Services, subject to immediate recall whenever their services were requested by the Military Staff Committee.

128. The Fifth Committee was informed by the Principal Secretary of the Military Staff Committee that the Military Staff Committee could not agree to an arrangement which would in effect deprive the Committee of its own secretariat. On the other hand, the Military Staff Committee was anxious that its secretariat be kept fully employed and discussions would take place with the Secretary-General to that end.

129. Several delegations expressed their concurrence with the Advisory Committee's concern that the Secretariat of the Military Staff Committee be fully utilized and hoped that the discussions would prove effective. The Committee approved, unanimously, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$109,200 for the Military Staff Committee.

#### Section 8. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

130. The Committee considered the estimates for section 8 at its 452nd and 453rd meetings. The Advisory Committee had concurred in the estimates proposed by the Secretary-General amounting to \$3,717,000 for the combined departments.

Subsequently, the Secretary-General had revised his estimates in deleting one post of Deputy Under-Secretary from those estimates thus reducing them by an amount of \$21,500. The decision on salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank resulted in a further reduction of \$8,500. Thus, the estimate before the Committee totalled \$3,687,000.

131. Members of the Committee noted that the Secretary-General had reported to the Economic and Social Council on the programme of work of the organization in the economic and social fields (E/2598) at the eighteenth session of the Council and that the Council had generally approved his proposals. Certain delegations, while repeating that they were in agreement with the concentration of efforts on economic developments of under-developed countries, cautioned against neglect of social questions, some of which were of an urgent nature.

132. Delegations welcomed the merger of the two departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs, and expressed their interest in the study that was to be undertaken by the Secretary-General of the operations of the Technical Assistance Administration, particularly in this context, in the relationships between the newly merged department and the TAA, as well as the question of a further merger including the TAA.

133. A number of delegations, while expressing satisfaction with the reduction in the combined establishments of the two departments, felt handicapped for lack of details in the Secretary-General's estimates in so far as work programmes and divisional responsibilities were concerned. Certain of these delegations stated their view that larger reductions were possible. The representatives of the USSR and Czechoslovakia were of the opinion that the Secretary-General's reorganization plan which envisaged further reductions should be given full effect in 1955, and the representative of the USSR proposed a reduction of \$430,000 in the estimates for this section.

134. After rejecting by 38 votes to 5, the proposal of the USSR the Committee approved, by 38 votes to 5, the appropriation for section 8 as requested by the Secretary-General and recommended by the Advisory Committee in the amount of \$3,687,000.

Section 9 - Department of Trusteeship and Information  
from Non-Self-Governing Territories

135. The Advisory Committee, in its report, had concurred in the Secretary-General's estimate of \$867,700 for section 9. The decision of the Fifth Committee on salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank had the effect of reducing this amount by \$8,500 to \$859,200.

136. The Fifth Committee considered the estimates for section 9 at its 453rd meeting. In response to a question by the representative of Iraq, the Committee was assured that the department could carry out its necessary work within the establishment proposed by the Secretary-General in his plan of organization but only on condition that its workload would not increase over the present level.

137. The representative of Poland proposed that the appropriation for section 9 be reduced by \$115,000 which would be the savings that would accrue if the total reduction envisaged under the Secretary-General's organization plan was given effect in 1955.

138. The Committee rejected the proposal of Poland by 38 votes to 5, and approved, by 38 votes to 5, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$859,200 under section 9 for 1955.

Section 10 - Department of Public Information

139. The Advisory Committee had recommended an appropriation of \$2,542,500 for section 10, a reduction of \$20,000 from the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General. The Fifth Committee's decision on salaries and allowances had reduced this amount by a further \$8,500 to \$2,534,000.

140. The Fifth Committee considered these estimates at its 453rd meeting. Several delegates supported the intention of the Secretary-General to use more extensively self-liquidating and outside contractual arrangements in the public information field to compensate for the reduction in establishment. These delegates, however, expressed the hope that care would be taken in such arrangements, to ensure that the principle that the function of disseminating information regarding the United Nations should be carried out strictly under United Nations supervisory safeguard.

141. The representative of Poland was of the opinion that greater savings could be achieved in the department of Public Information. He proposed that the recommendation of the Advisory Committee be reduced by \$220,000. The Fifth Committee rejected this proposal by 37 votes to 5.

142. The Committee approved, by 38 votes to 5, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that \$2,534,000 be appropriated under section 10 for 1955.

#### Section 10a. - Visitors' Service

143. At its 478th meeting, the Fifth Committee, in connexion with its discussion of the Guided Tours Programme which is dealt with in the general introduction to this report approved without objection the proposal of the Secretary-General that, in connexion with the assumption by the United Nations of the full responsibility for the Guided Tours Programme, a new section 10.a - entitled Visitors' Service, should be provided in the 1955 budget and that the appropriation for 1955 for this section should be \$290,000.

144. In the course of the second reading of the budget, the representative of the United States explained that, as his delegation was of the opinion that the Service had been efficiently and properly run by the voluntary organization previously responsible for it, he would abstain in the vote on this section. He was further given assurance by the representative of the Secretary-General that the titling of this section as 10.a did not prejudice the administrative location of the Service.

#### Section 11 - Department of Conference Services

145. The Advisory Committee had recommended an appropriation of \$6,168,300 for section 11, as proposed by the Secretary-General. In the course of the debate on organization, the Secretary-General had made proposals regarding the number of deputy Under-Secretaries which provided inter alia for the appointment of a deputy for the department of Conference Services for which no provision had been included in the original estimates. The increased cost in this proposal (\$21,500) was partially offset by a reduction (\$8,500) resulting from the Committee's decision on salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank. The figure before the Committee was thus \$6,181,300.



146. The representative of Argentina and China requested assurances that the proposed reductions in staff in the department would not impair the language services in Spanish and Chinese respectively. They further requested assurance that the backlogs in these languages would be liquidated. The Committee was informed that one of the difficulties experienced in achieving and maintaining a satisfactory pace in the liquidation of the backlog had been in the recruitment of qualified language staff. The situation was improving and the establishment proposed would be adequate to provide for an orderly liquidation of the backlog if all the posts could be kept filled.

147. Certain delegations drew attention to paragraph 116 of the report of the Advisory Committee, in which the Advisory Committee had expressed its opinion that the procedure and the supervision in the language sections of the department should be given closer attention, believing that thereby both the output and the quantity of the work might be enhanced.

148. The representative of the Byelorussian SSR proposed that the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee be reduced by \$75,000; \$43,500 of which would be provided by the elimination of a post of deputy Under-Secretary, one post of first officer in the language service and one general service post, the remainder to be distributed at the discretion of the Secretary-General. This proposal was supported by the representatives of Czechoslovakia and the USSR.

149. After rejecting by 36 votes to 5 with 1 abstention, the proposal of the Byelorussian SSR, the Committee approved, by 34 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, an appropriation of \$6,181,300 for section 11.

150. Consequent to the recommendation (A/2815) by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly in connexion with agenda item 55 - Translation of some official documents of the General Assembly into the Arabic language in accordance with rule 59 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and the adoption of this recommendation by the General Assembly, the appropriation for this section was subsequently increased by \$55,500 to \$6,236,800.

Section 11a. Library

151. The Fifth Committee considered section 11a at its 454th meeting. The Secretary-General had requested in his budget estimates an appropriation for the Library at Headquarters, in the amount of \$489,000. In its report, the Advisory Committee, drawing attention to what it considered a somewhat liberal provision in the staffing at the supervisory level, and to the fact that the Secretary-General had proposed that less emphasis be placed in future on pure research or factual compilation, proposed a reduction of \$14,000 to the Secretary-General's estimates. The Secretary-General, in his statement on the 1955 estimates (A/C.5/580) had said that he could not agree with the assumptions on which the Advisory Committee had based its recommended reduction, and that he could not see, at least at the present time, how any reduction in the staff of the Library could be achieved without a corresponding reduction in services.

152. A number of delegations expressed the importance that they attached to the necessity of having a comprehensive library, and effective library services. With that in mind, they could not, in the light of the Secretary-General's comments, concur in the reduction proposed by the Advisory Committee.

153. During the discussion of this section, the representatives of the Secretary-General replied to a number of questions. The Committee was assured that the transfer of the Library to the Department of Conference Services would have no adverse effects on its efficiency. The Committee was also informed that though the Library would attempt to absorb the functions of legislative indexing, previously done in several departments, it was not possible without experience under this new arrangement proposed by the Secretary-General to state that this could be done without additional staff - it being pointed out that the transfer of the operation to the Library had enabled savings to be made under other departments.

154. In its report, the Advisory Committee had drawn attention to the fact that, in spite of a strict policy of discard, with which is combined a practice of making gift deposits in other libraries in the New York area, the problem of library space was likely to become acute in the next two years. A number of delegations referred to this point, and it was agreed that the Secretary-General would submit a report to the tenth session of the General Assembly on the principles by which the Library was guided in the matter of acquisitions, measures to solve the problem of available space and the possibility of discarding unneeded works by giving them to other libraries.

155. The Committee approved, by 40 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions, a proposal by Yugoslavia for an appropriation for the Library for 1955 in the amount of \$489,000 as requested by the Secretary-General.

### Section 12. Office of General Services

156. The Advisory Committee, in its report, had concurred in the Secretary-General's estimate of \$2,976,000 for 1955 for the Office of General Services. The decision of the Fifth Committee on salaries and allowances had resulted in an increase of this amount by \$150 to \$2,976,150.

157. The Fifth Committee considered the estimates for Section 12 at its 454th meeting. The representative of the Ukrainian SSR stated that his delegation, while appreciative of the savings the Secretary-General had achieved, felt that further reductions were possible. Referring to the increase in the number of posts in the Office of the Director, the possibility in his mind of a further reduction in various units and the provision for overtime in the amount of \$105,000, he proposed that the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee be reduced by \$40,000.

158. The representative of Czechoslovakia, in addition to supporting the proposal of the Ukrainian SSR, stated that his delegation considered that the Field Operations Service was a paramilitary organization contrary to the provisions of the Charter. He therefore proposed the deletion of the \$91,000 included in Section 12 for that service.

159. The Committee rejected by 40 votes to 5 the proposal of Czechoslovakia, and by 40 votes to 5, the proposal of the Ukrainian SSR. It approved, by 41 votes to 5, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation under Section 12 for 1955 in the amount of \$2,976,150.

### Section 13. Temporary Assistance and Consultants

160. Section 13 provided a consolidated section for temporary assistance and consultants, expenditures for which in previous years had been provided in the departmental sections. The Advisory Committee, noting that this consolidation reflected the measures that had been taken to administer these accounts centrally, had expressed its appreciation of the action that had been taken and had concurred with the Secretary-General's estimate of \$510,000 for these accounts.

161. The Fifth Committee considered this section at its 454th meeting. Certain members expressed their appreciation of the new arrangements and noted the savings that had been effected. The representative of Argentina requested that in future estimates an indication be given of the anticipated requirements of the several departments under these headings on which the total request had been formulated.

162. The representative of the Ukrainian SSR, while expressing the appreciation of his delegation for the savings that had been achieved, stated the opinion of his delegation that (i) by more careful scheduling of annual leave the expenses for replacement of staff members on leave could be reduced, and (ii) that after nine years of experience, the Secretariat should be able to dispense with the services of consultants save in quite exceptional cases. His delegation further supported the suggestion of the Advisory Committee that the scale of remuneration for consultants should be reviewed. In the light of these considerations, the representative of the Ukrainian SSR proposed a reduction of \$60,000 in this section, of which \$40,000 would apply to temporary assistance and \$20,000 to consultants.

163. The Committee rejected by 37 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, the proposal of the Ukrainian SSR; and approved, by 39 votes to 5, the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$510,000 under Section 13.

#### Section 14. Travel of Staff

164. This section comprises for 1955 the requirements for Headquarters for (i) travel on appointment, transfer and repatriation; (ii) travel on home leave, and (iii) travel on official business. The Secretary-General had estimated requirements for these three items at \$265,000, \$645,000 and \$90,000, respectively. The Advisory Committee pointed out that the total for these three items was \$300,000 below the provision for 1954 due to the uneven incidence of home leave, and expressed the opinion that some reduction could be made in the other two items covered. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of \$20,000 in the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General.

165. During the discussion of this section by the Committee at its 454th meeting, additional information was given to the Committee by the representative of the Secretary-General in regard to the contractual arrangements for travel. The representative of the United Kingdom, pointed out that the uneven distribution of home leave between any two years might add to temporary assistance costs, requested the Secretary-General to furnish the Fifth Committee at the tenth session with a report on the steps he proposed to take to remedy the situation.

166. The Committee approved unanimously the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that \$980,000 be appropriated under Section 14.

167. Consequent to the recommendation (A/2815) by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly in connexion with agenda item 55 - Translation of some official documents of the General Assembly into the Arabic language in accordance with rule 59 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and the adoption of this recommendation by the General Assembly, the appropriation for this section was subsequently increased by \$7,500 to \$987,500.

Section 15. Common Staff Costs

168. The Committee considered this section at its 454th meeting. The Advisory Committee, in its report, had recommended a reduction of \$7,400 in the Secretary-General's estimates of \$3,392,400 for this section. This reduction related entirely to the provision in those estimates for a grant of that sum to the United Nations International School. The Advisory Committee, noting the fact that in the past such payments had been authorized solely on a year to year basis, expressed the view that provision for them should not be included until a specific decision on the grant for 1955 had been taken by the General Assembly.

169. In addition to the budget estimates and the report of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee had before it a report by the Secretary-General on the United Nations International School (A/C.5/601), in which he proposed that the grant to the International School in the amount of \$7,400 be approved. The Committee also received further information on the operations and financial situation of the School from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the School, who replied to various questions and, inter alia, undertook to provide to the tenth session of the General Assembly, information on the number of children whose parents were members of delegations, accredited press representatives, and members of the diplomatic corps, the number of children of different nationalities and the number of children of staff members who attended American schools.

170. A number of delegations, while agreeing that continuing efforts should be taken to make the School self-supporting, expressed their support for 1955 for the grant. The representative of Australia proposed that the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General for this purpose be approved.

171. The representative of the Ukrainian SSR stated that his delegation was of the opinion that the estimates for common staff costs were too high, citing the Advisory Committee's suggestion that installation payments might usefully be reviewed, as well as the fact that separation payments were high and the estimates contained provisions for staff training even though the Secretariat has already acquired great experience. He proposed that the estimates for common staff costs be reduced by \$50,000.

172. The Committee rejected by 39 votes to 5 the proposal of the Ukrainian SSR and approved, by 38 votes to 6, with one abstention, the proposal of Australia that the Secretary-General's estimate of \$3,392,400 be appropriated for 1955 for Section 15.

173. At its 478th meeting, the Fifth Committee, in connexion with its discussion of the Guided Tour Programme which is dealt with in the general introduction to this report, approved by 35 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions, a proposal of the Secretary-General that the amount approved on first reading under section 15 for the Interne Programme be increased by \$32,000 to allow for an expansion of that programme. With that decision, the total for this section was increased to \$3,424,400.

174. Consequent to the recommendation (A/2815) by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly in connexion with agenda item 55 - Translation of some official documents of the General Assembly into the Arabic language in accordance with rule 59 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and the adoption of this recommendation by the General Assembly, the appropriation for this section was subsequently increased by \$13,000 to \$3,437,400.

#### Section 16. Common Services

175. The Fifth Committee considered section 16 of the 1955 budget at its 455th meeting. The Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of \$35,000 in the Secretary-General's estimates of \$3,660,000 for this section and had given indications of where the reductions might be applied. The Secretary-General had, in his general statement on the budget, said that he would not contest the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee, but had stated that he would desire authority to apply the reduction over the various chapters and items of the section at his own discretion. The Fifth Committee heard from the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that the Advisory Committee agreed with the request of the Secretary-General.



176. The representative of Argentina, referring to a number of specific items in the section proposed reductions in the Secretary-General's estimates totalling \$62,400, this reduction to substitute for that recommended by the Advisory Committee.

177. The representative of Czechoslovakia also commented on items within the sections where, in the opinion of his delegation, further savings could be effected. His delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation of a reduction of \$35,000, and proposed an additional reduction of \$80,000. It agreed with the proposals of Argentina, which could be offset, where appropriate, against the Czechoslovak proposal.

178. The representative of the Secretary-General stated that the Secretary-General would bear in mind the comments of the representative of Argentina when administering the 1955 appropriations, but that he feared that the proposals would result in a deficit for 1955. He assured the Committee that the Secretary-General would do his utmost to achieve economy wherever possible.

179. The representative of Argentina reiterated that his delegation was in favour of economy where economy was feasible but that it would not support any reductions which were considered incapable of fulfilment. Therefore, in the light of the statement of the representative of the Secretary-General, he would not insist on his proposal.

180. The Fifth Committee rejected by 36 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions, the proposal of Czechoslovakia and approved, by 40 votes to 5, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that, for 1955, \$3,625,000 be appropriated under Section 16.

#### Section 17. Permanent Equipment

181. The Advisory Committee had recommended in its report an appropriation of \$170,100 for section 17, a reduction of \$21,500 in the Secretary-General's estimate, and had indicated in its report the amounts recommended for reduction in the various chapters of the section. The Secretary-General, in his opening statement, while not contesting the reduction proposed, had requested that he

be given authority to apply the reduction within the section at his discretion. When the Committee considered this section at its 455th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that the Advisory Committee concurred with the Secretary-General's request.

182. The representative of the Secretary-General pointed out to the Fifth Committee that the reduction proposed was substantial in relation to the total amount requested, and stated that if equipment were not replaced currently, the costs in later years might be substantially larger. He proposed in 1955 to submit a programme for the gradual replacement of furniture and equipment which he hoped would meet with the approval of the Advisory Committee and the Member States. In reply to questions by various delegations, he assured the Committee that the equipment was of high quality, but pointed out that the wear and tear to which it was subjected in the new building was much greater, in view of the large number of visitors, than it had been at Lake Success.

183. A number of delegations expressed their view that the expenses were, nevertheless, unduly high, particularly since large sums had been expended in the initial equipping of the building, and hence they supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation. The representative of Argentina suggested that an inventory of the equipment might be provided periodically to the Member States so that they could better review the estimates for this section.

184. The representative of Israel referred to the discussions in the Committee on section 11a, Library, and pointed out that the views thus expressed should be borne in mind in connexion with the application of any part of the reduction to Chapter II of the section, Library Books and Equipment.

185. The representative of the Ukrainian SSR proposed that the estimates be reduced by \$20,100 in addition to the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee, pointing to the fact that approximately one million dollars had been expended in the past three years on the purchase of equipment.

186. The Fifth Committee rejected the proposal of the Ukrainian SSR by 41 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions, and approved, by 40 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that \$170,100 be appropriated for 1955 under Section 17.

187. Consequent to the recommendation (A/2815) by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly in connexion with agenda item 55 - Translation of some official documents of the General Assembly into the Arabic language in accordance with rule 59 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and the adoption of this recommendation by the General Assembly, the appropriation for this section was subsequently increased by \$1,500 to \$171,600.

Section 18. European Office of the United Nations

188. The estimates for the European Office of the United Nations at Geneva were considered by the Committee at its 455th meeting. The Advisory Committee, in its main report on the budget estimates for 1955, had recommended an appropriation under this section in the amount of \$4,682,100, a reduction of \$39,900 from the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General. Revised estimates had been submitted by the Secretary-General in connexion with the 1955 session of the International Law Commission (A/C.5/587) and the financial implications of the decisions taken at the eighteenth session of the Economic and Social Council (A/C.5/582 and Corr.1) which had been considered by the Fifth Committee under sections 1 and 3 respectively (see those sections above) and which also affected section 18. The Advisory Committee reports on these two revised estimates were contained in documents A/2766 and A/2763 and Corr.1 respectively, and the action by the Fifth Committee on the first reading of those two reports had resulted in a net addition of \$1,800 to the estimates for Chapter I of section 18, so that the recommendation of the Advisory Committee as adjusted by these decisions was \$4,683,900.

189. In addition to the estimates for this section, the Committee also had before it a report by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/597) in response to a request made by the Fifth Committee at the eighth session of the General Assembly that the situation with regard to reimbursement by specialized agencies and others for the use of Geneva facilities should be reviewed and a report submitted to the ninth session of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General had reported that following a discussion between the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee in the Spring of 1954, negotiations had been initiated with the specialized agencies concerned in order to reach agreement on possible modifications in the methods of calculating reimbursement rates in Geneva, and that those negotiations were still in progress. In the course of the discussion of Chapter I, General Services, regret was expressed by one delegation that a more definitive report had not been possible.

190. The Fifth Committee discussed the estimates for Section 18, chapter by chapter, and decided, in accordance with previous practice, to consider chapter IV, Economic Commission for Europe in conjunction with sections 21 and 22 relating to the Economic Commissions for Asia and the Far East and for Latin America.

191. In the consideration by the Committee of Chapter I - General Services, a number of delegations expressed the hope that the forthcoming review of the European Office by the Secretary-General would yield economies. In connexion with that review, they made specific reference to the responsibilities and emoluments of the Deputy-Director of that office, the grading of the posts in the Liaison Unit, the strengthening of the supervisory levels in Geneva, and the question of the transfer to Geneva of a full-time legal officer from Headquarters. The representative of the USSR made a proposal that the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee for chapter I should be reduced by a further \$70,000, noting that the estimates for this chapter for 1955 were \$50,000 higher than the appropriations for 1954 and \$100,000 higher than the expenditures for 1953. After rejecting the proposal of the USSR by 38 votes to 5, the Committee approved, by 39 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee as adjusted (see above) of \$2,362,800 for Chapter I.

192. As regards Chapter II - Information Centre, the Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of \$6,400 in the Secretary-General's estimate of \$102,900. In his opening statement to the Fifth Committee on the budget for 1955 (A/C.5/580), the Secretary-General had stated that he did not wish to contest this reduction but reserved his final position on the staffing requirements of the Information Centre at Geneva; should he find in the course of his review of that office that the establishment initially requested by him was necessary, he would request additional credits in 1955 to meet that need. The Fifth Committee approved unanimously the Advisory Committee's recommendation of \$96,500 for Chapter II.

193. In connexion with Chapter III - Joint Secretariat of the Permanent Central Opium Board and Drug Supervisory Body, the Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of \$11,000 in the Secretary-General's estimate, relating to the proposed restoration of the post of Deputy Secretary to those two bodies. At

its 444th meeting, the Committee had heard a statement from the President of the Permanent Central Opium Board on the reasons why that Board considered the restoration of that post necessary, and it was noted that the Secretary-General could not agree with the proposed reduction. The Committee approved the recommendation of the Advisory Committee of \$54,500 for Chapter III.

194. For Chapter V - Common Staff Costs, the Advisory Committee had concurred in the Secretary-General's estimate of \$655,200. Czechoslovakia proposed the deletion from that chapter an amount of \$50,000 which related to the common staff costs of the Geneva establishment of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (Chapter 19). This proposal was rejected by 37 votes to 6, with 1 abstention, and the Committee approved by 39 votes to 5, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

195. For Chapter VI - Common Services, the amount of \$389,400 recommended by the Advisory Committee was a reduction of \$5,000 in the estimate submitted by the Secretary-General. The representative of Czechoslovakia proposed a further reduction of \$18,000, that being the amount for common services in respect of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. The proposal by Czechoslovakia was rejected by 36 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions, and the recommendation of the Advisory Committee was approved by 40 votes to 5.

196. Under Chapter VII - Permanent Equipment, the Advisory Committee's recommendation of \$150,000, a reduction of \$5,500 in the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General, was approved unanimously.

197. The Committee then approved, by 41 votes to 5, an appropriation of \$3,708,400 for section 18, excluding chapter IV, Economic Commission for Europe, on the understanding that this figure would be increased by the amount approved for Chapter IV to constitute the appropriation for section 18 as a whole.

198. At its 456th meeting, in its consideration of the Regional Economic Commissions (see relative paragraphs below), the Fifth Committee approved by 24 votes to 20, with 5 abstentions, a proposal by Yugoslavia that the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for the Economic Commission for Europe of \$975,500 be increased by \$9,500 to the figure requested by the Secretary-General, \$985,000.

199. The Committee thus approved, on first reading, an appropriation of \$4,693,400 for section 18.

200. At its 482nd meeting, the Committee considered revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General for Section 18 in connexion with the purchase of a radio transmitter and auxiliary equipment at Geneva, and had before it for this purpose a report by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/606) and a report by the Advisory Committee (A/2828). The Committee approved, by 31 votes to 5, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the estimates for section 18 be increased by \$27,900 for this purpose, to a total of \$4,721,300.

201. In the course of the second reading of the budget, statements were made on section 18 by several delegations on the provisions for the Joint Secretariat of the Permanent Central Opium Board and Drug Supervisory Body; and the representative of the Secretary-General replied to certain questions on those provisions. The Committee rejected, by 16 votes to 14, with 9 abstentions a proposal of Norway that the estimates for that Secretariat be increased by \$11,000; and approved by 17 votes to 10, with 12 abstentions, a proposal by Belgium that pending his review of the European Office in 1955, the Secretary-General should be authorized to continue, on a temporary basis, the post of Deputy Secretary of those bodies.

#### Section 19. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

202. For section 19, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Advisory Committee had recommended an appropriation of \$685,000, a reduction of \$12,000 from the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General. The Fifth Committee considered this section at its 440th meeting.

203. In the course of the discussion of this section, the High Commissioner for Refugees replied to a number of questions by various delegations, and the representative of the Secretary-General gave further detailed explanations of particular items in the estimates.

204. The representative of Czechoslovakia, supported by the U.S.S.R., proposed the deletion of provisions in the budget for the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. This proposal was rejected by 40 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.

205. The Committee approved, by 39 votes to 6, with 2 abstentions, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that \$685,000 be appropriated under section 19 for 1955.

Section 20. Information Centres

206. At its 456th meeting, the Fifth Committee considered the estimates for section 20, Information Centres. It was noted that this section did not include provision for the Information Centre at Geneva, which was included as Chapter II in section 18, European Office of the United Nations.

207. In its report on the estimates, the Advisory Committee had recommended an appropriation for 1955 for section 20 in the amount of \$905,100, as proposed by the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee had noted that the Secretary-General would be reviewing in early 1955 the overseas activities of the United Nations. Thus, the Information Centres would come under review, both as to their functioning and their geographical locations, and inter alia, the review would cover the Postal Administration and Travel Unit attached to the London Centre. Further, the system of differentials applied to the salaries of professional staff serving away from Headquarters would be studied. In view of these facts, the Advisory Committee did not wish to make any far-reaching recommendations at this stage.

208. The Fifth Committee approved, by 37 votes to 5, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that \$905,100 be appropriated for section 20.



PART VI. Secretariats of the Regional Economic Commissions

Section 21 - Secretariat of the Economic Commission  
for Asia and the Far East

Section 22 - Secretariat of the Economic Commission  
for Latin America

and including

Section 18 - Chapter IV - Secretariat of the Economic  
Commission for Europe.

209. At the time of its discussion of Section 18, European Office of the United Nations, the Fifth Committee had decided to consider Chapter IV of that Section relating to the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe together with the provisions for the Secretariats of the other two regional economic commissions. These estimates were considered by the Fifth Committee at its 456th meeting.

210. The Advisory Committee in its report had recommended the following appropriations:

- (i) For the ECE, \$975,500, a reduction of \$9,500 from the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General;
- (ii) For the ECAFE, \$1,137,300, a reduction of \$15,000 from the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General; and
- (iii) For the ECLA, \$960,000, a reduction of \$10,200 from the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General.

211. In addition to giving its reasons for the reductions recommended, the Advisory Committee in its report had taken note of the Secretary-General's view that the budgets of the ECAFE and ECLA had, on the basis of the 1955 estimates, reached a point of stability, that of ECE having shown no increase of establishment over the past few years. The Committee further noted that the work and staffing of the regional commissions would be reviewed by the Secretary-General early in 1955.

212. The Advisory Committee had indicated that with respect to ECAFE and ECLA, the reductions proposed should be applied to the accounts for temporary assistance, consultants, and travel on official business. The Secretary-General, in his

opening statement to the Committee (A/C.5/580), had stated that he would attempt to make the savings proposed by the Advisory Committee but that, for reasons which he gave the Committee, he could not agree to undertake to achieve those savings in the particular accounts which the Advisory Committee had indicated.

213. At the opening of its discussion, the representative of the Secretary-General pointed out to the Committee that the Committee's decision on salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank applied also to the offices away from Headquarters. In its application to the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Economic Commissions, the amounts recommended by the Advisory Committee for ECAFE and ECIA would be increased by \$500 each, to \$1,137,800 and \$960,500 respectively.

214. In the discussion by the Committee of the Secretariats of the Economic Commissions, a number of delegations reiterated the great importance that they attached to the work of these Commissions. These Commissions were important instruments in the work of the Organization for the acceleration of the economic development of underdeveloped countries, which was one of the priority projects of the Organization. Particularly in respect of this character of the work of the Commissions, considerable attention was paid to the estimates for ECAFE and ECIA.

215. A number of delegations stated that even though the Secretary-General had indicated that he was prepared to accept the reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee for ECAFE and ECIA, they themselves could not agree with those reductions. Specifically, the work of the Commission was such that the use of consultants and the carrying out of extensive travel was of great importance to the success of that work. More generally, they were not in agreement that any chances should be taken with the work of the Commissions, and certainly not since the amounts recommended for reduction by the Advisory Committee would not result in large savings on the budget. Argentina proposed that the appropriation of \$970,200 requested by the Secretary-General for Section 22, ECIA, should be approved. El Salvador, in supporting the proposal of Argentina, proposed that the Secretary-General's requested amounts both for ECAFE, Section 21, and ECIA, Section 22 be appropriated for 1955.

216. A number of other delegations, while expressing their sympathy with the point of view expressed above, felt that the Committee should not take the step of increasing the Advisory Committee's recommendations if the Secretary-General had agreed to attempt to make the savings proposed. They felt that as the Advisory Committee had been set up to guide the Fifth Committee, and as it had discharged its duties with the greatest care, the Committee was bound to give close attention to whatever recommendations it found fit to make. They further noted that the Secretary-General would not have agreed to make the savings recommended if he had felt that such proposals would seriously damage the work of the Regional Economic Commissions.

217. The representative of Yugoslavia, expressing the importance which his delegation attached to the work of the Economic Commission for Europe, proposed similarly that the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General for that Commission be restored, and he associated himself with the Argentinian and El Salvadorian proposals.

218. The Committee approved, by 24 votes to 20, with 5 abstentions, an appropriation for Section 18 Chapter IV (Secretariat for the Economic Commission for Europe) in the amount of \$985,000.

219. The Committee approved, by 28 votes to 19, with 2 abstentions, the proposal of El Salvador and Yugoslavia, that the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee for Section 21 (Secretariat of ECAFE) should be increased by \$15,000 to \$1,152,800.

220. The Committee approved, by 28 votes to 19, with 2 abstentions, the proposal of Argentina, El Salvador and Yugoslavia, that the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee for Section 22 (Secretariat of ECLA) should be increased by \$10,200 to a total of \$970,700.

Section 23. Hospitality

221. At its 456th meeting, the Committee approved unanimously the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation for hospitality expenses for 1955 in the amount of \$20,000 as requested by the Secretary-General.

Section 23a. Special payments under Annex 1, paragraph 2,  
of the Staff Regulations

222. At its 456th meeting, the Fifth Committee took note of the fact that the implementation of its decision on the salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank at Headquarters necessitated the approval of an amount of \$50,000 for the special payments to these officers approved in lieu of the representation allowances previously reflected under the various Headquarters sections of the budget and of the Secretary-General's proposal (A/C.5/600) that this amount be shown under a new section, section 23a, to be titled "Special payments under Annex 1, paragraph 2, of the Staff Regulations".

PART VIII. Contractual Printing

Section 24. Official Records

Section 25. Publications

223. The Advisory Committee had recommended in its report an appropriation of \$700,000 each for sections 24 and 25, or a total of \$1,400,000 as compared with the Secretary-General's estimate of \$1,439,000. That Committee had further recommended that the Secretary-General be authorized to administer the two sections as a single unit and to transfer funds between them at his own discretion.

224. In its report, the Advisory Committee had also dealt with certain general questions of control of documentation, which was in effect the basic consideration underlying the budgetary provisions for contractual printing. The Committee noted that this problem had had the continuing attention of the General Assembly, of the Councils, and of the Advisory Committee itself, and that a number of suggestions and recommendations had been made, including resolutions by the General Assembly, on the question. The problem had also received continuing attention by the Secretary-General and the Publications Board. With regard to the Secretary-General's concern, the Advisory Committee referred to the importance given to the question by the Secretary-General in his review of the work programme in the economic and social fields as evidenced in his report to the eighteenth session of the Economic and Social Council on the organization of the work in those fields (E/2598). In that report, as well as in his budget estimates, the Secretary-General, in addition to stating certain general premises, had indicated that his 1955 requests for contractual printing had been formulated under a decision to attempt to maintain requirements in 1955 at a level no higher than the 1954 appropriations.

225. The Fifth Committee considered the estimates for these two sections at its 457th meeting. The members of the Committee generally expressed concern at the growing volume in documentation of the United Nations and other international organizations, in spite of the careful attention that had been given the problem in preceding years. Concern was expressed not only

with regard to contractual printing costs, which were the immediate question before the Committee, but also as regards internal reproduction, and the concern was based not only on financial grounds but also as regards the effect of the large volume of documentation on the ability of the Governments and the Secretariats efficiently to operate and to concentrate on priority problems.

226. In the course of the discussion in the Fifth Committee, a number of suggestions were made with regard to possible technical measures which might be taken to reduce the costs of contractual printing, such as (i) placing of printing contracts in "soft currency" areas (which also had advantages to Member States in the payment of contributions); (ii) format and style of publications; (iii) the possibility of establishing a United Nations Press, and (iv) the possibility of foregoing the publication of some items in the backlog with the agreement of the delegations concerned. Certain delegations pointed to certain delays in documentation, both in original and translated language versions, which hampered the work of the delegations; and the representative of Denmark stated that his delegation considered it would be useful to Member States to have a schedule of the dates of publication of important Assembly documents in 1953 and 1954, with reasons where appropriate for undue delays. One delegation made suggestions regarding information that should be contained in the estimates in order to provide the Governments with the necessary facts on which to review those estimates. The Chairman of the Publications Board informed the Committee of the extensive action that had already been taken by the Secretariat in the exploration of technical measures whereby savings could be effected in contractual printing and assured the Committee that this aspect of the problem would receive constant attention.

227. The Committee appreciated, however, that the basic problem involved was control of documentation at the substantive level, both as regards decisions by various organs which resulted in additional documentation, and as regards the scope given to these decisions by the Secretariat in its interpretation of the action required.

228. As regards the first of these questions, it was pointed out that of the \$1,400,000 recommended for these two sections, \$1,300,000 related to printing of official records, which were controlled by specific decisions of the General Assembly, and recurrent publications which had over the course of years been requested by competent organs and reviewed by them as to their scope and content. The Secretary-General had not only a right, but also an obligation to review requirements in those areas, and make recommendations thereon; but it was only in respect of special publications accounting for \$100,000 of the total that the Secretary-General had any very wide degree of discretion, and even there, the publications were specifically related to desires expressed in various bodies of the Organization.

229. In this general area of control, considerable attention was paid to the publication of the Treaty Series. It was in regard to this Series, which was published under a provision of the Charter and specific interpretative decisions of the General Assembly that the Secretary-General had, in his budget estimates, entered a reservation as to his ability to maintain the 1955 expenses at the 1954 level of appropriations. The Advisory Committee, in its report, had pointed out the fact that the question had been given specific attention by the General Assembly in the past, and that without a new decision on the part of the General Assembly, little action could be taken to reduce the costs occasioned by the publication of the Treaty Series. The Fifth Committee was, however, informed at its 457th meeting by the Chairman of the Publications Board that more recent experience indicated that the rate of registration of treaties might be such that the provision originally requested for 1955 would be sufficient, and that the Secretary-General would not therefore himself raise at this session the general question of printing of the Treaty Series. A number of delegations commented on the problem and the Committee approved, by 40 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions, a proposal by Australia that the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee be requested to examine questions raised in connexion with the publication of the Treaty Series in the light of the experience gained since 1950 and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its tenth session.

230. As regards the question of the Secretariat's control of documentation, a number of delegations welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to establish, as a part of his organizational proposals, a position of Director as Chief Editor to co-ordinate and control the implementation of the United Nations publications programme. The Advisory Committee in its report had commented on this proposal, stating that in its opinion, this position would more appropriately be located administratively in the Department of Conference Services, where the Editorial Control Unit was placed, than in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General as was proposed by the Secretary-General. That Committee had, however, noted that the Chief Editor would have to have free access to the Secretary-General in cases of differences with substantive departments. The Chairman of the Publications Board, however, reiterated the Secretary-General's conviction that the Director would be able better to perform his duties if he were directly responsible to the Secretary-General. Similar arrangements had worked well in the past in other areas and the question could always be reconsidered in the light of experience.

231. In the course of the discussion of these sections, the United States proposed a further reduction of \$50,000 in the figure of \$1,400,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee, stating that such a reduction would strengthen the position of the Chief Editor. Several delegations supported this proposal but a number of others indicated that they were not prepared to support such a global reduction after the detailed review made by the Advisory Committee had led to that Committee's recommendation, and the proposal was rejected by 28 votes to 10, with 8 abstentions.

232. Czechoslovakia proposed the deletion of the provision of \$3,000 for printing of publications for the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, his delegation being of the opinion that the activities of that Office were contrary to resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its first and second sessions calling for the early repatriation of refugees. The Czechoslovak proposal was rejected by 41 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions.



233. The Fifth Committee:

- (i) approved, by 43 votes to 5, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$700,000 under section 24;
- (ii) approved, by 42 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$700,000 under section 25;
- (iii) approved unanimously, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General be given authority to administer sections 24 and 25 as a unit and thereby to transfer funds between them at his direction.

234. Subsequently the Committee approved, in connexion with a draft resolution adopted by the Second Committee concerning a United Nations Fund for Economic Development, a statement of financial implications (see A/2848) involving an increase of \$5,100 for section 24. The draft resolution concerned having been adopted by the General Assembly, the appropriation for this section was accordingly increased by \$5,100 to \$705,100.

235. Consequent to the recommendation (A/2815) by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly in connexion with agenda item 55 - translation of some official documents of the General Assembly into the Arabic language in accordance with rule 59 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and the adoption of this recommendation by the General Assembly, the appropriation for section 24 subsequently increased by \$11,000 to \$716,100.

PART IX. Technical Programmes

Section 26 - Technical Assistance Administration

Section 27 - Economic Development

Section 28 - Social Activities

Section 29 - Public Administration

236. The Committee, at its 458th meeting, considered Part IX of the budget for 1955, sections 26-29, comprising the contribution made from the regular United Nations budget to technical assistance activities as set out above. These contributions are treated as lump-sum grants-in-aid to the UNTAA and merged with funds allocated to that Administration by the Technical Assistance Board from the Special Account for the Expanded Programme for Technical Assistance.

237. The Secretary-General had requested, and the Advisory Committee had recommended, appropriations for these sections in the amounts that had been approved for 1954, in a total of \$1,779,600.

238. With regard to the operation of the United Nations portion of the Technical Assistance Programme, a number of delegations commented appreciatively on the work that was being done. As regards the administrative and financial aspects of the work, the delegations referred to their comments on the possibilities of a merger of the Technical Assistance Administration with the newly-formed Department of Economic and Social Affairs during the general debate on organization of the Secretariat. While the delegations which participated in the discussion generally favoured a merger of these two organizational segments, they were prepared to await the findings of the Secretary-General after the review of the TAA which he would undertake in the course of the coming year.

239. With particular reference to Section 26, Technical Assistance Administration, the Committee noted that while the amount proposed for appropriation in the regular United Nations budget formed only a part of the establishment expenditures of the TAA, the total costs involved were, under resolution 594 (VI) of the General Assembly, subject to the same scrutiny on the part of the Advisory Committee as applied to activities wholly financed from the regular budget. On this point the Advisory Committee had noted that the \$386,700 appropriation proposed was a contribution to an establishment estimated to cost in total \$1,336,000 gross, or \$1,146,500 net.

The net figure of \$1,146,500 represented 18 per cent of the total funds expected to be available for the United Nations activities in technical assistance; and the Advisory Committee, referring to its report on the Technical Assistance Programme (A/2661), reiterated its view that the ratio of administrative and indirect operational costs to total costs should not exceed 12 per cent. Recognizing, however, that difficulties were involved in a rapid reduction of that figure, the Advisory Committee expressed the hope that the Secretary-General could achieve a further \$30,000 reduction on the expenses of the Technical Assistance Administration.

240. The Fifth Committee was informed by the representative of the Secretary-General that reductions had been made in 1953 and 1954 in the amounts of \$100,000 and \$250,000 respectively. It would be difficult to give a definite undertaking to save a further \$30,000, but the Secretary-General would continue his efforts, particularly in the course of the review he was to undertake, to achieve whatever savings were possible within the TAA. He also pointed out to the Committee that further studies were to be carried out on the proper coverage of the terms 'administrative' and 'indirect' operational costs. Pending a generally agreed definition of these terms, comparisons of ratios of these costs to total costs were always subject to differences in evaluation.

241. A number of delegations, referring to the savings that had been achieved, expressed their satisfaction and their assurance that the Secretary-General would make every reasonable effort to effect as far as possible the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee, particularly as all savings in administrative costs freed additional funds for technical assistance projects. On the other hand, several delegations cautioned against marginal savings which might affect the effectiveness of the programme. They also expressed their interest in the study of definition of administrative and operational costs.

242. The representative of the USSR stated that the vote by the USSR in favour of the estimates as recommended by the Advisory Committee would be made on the understanding that the TAA would be reorganized and amalgamated with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

243. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the provisions to be made in the United Nations budget for technical assistance activities were approved unanimously, as follows:

Section 26 - Technical Assistance Administration	- \$386,700;
Section 27 - Economic development	- \$479,400;
Section 28 - Social activities	- \$768,500;
Section 29 - Public Administration	- \$145,000.

PART X. Special Expenses

Section 30. Transfer of the assets of the League of Nations  
to the United Nations

Section 31. Amortization of the Headquarters Construction Loan

244. At its 458th meeting the Committee approved, unanimously, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for appropriations for this part of the budget for 1955, as follows:

Section 30 - Transfer of the assets of the League of Nations to the United Nations -	\$649,500;
Section 31 - Amortization of the Headquarters Construction Loan -	\$2,000,000.

Section 32. Joint Staff Pension Board and United Nations  
Staff Pension Committee

245. The Committee considered the estimates for this section at its 458th meeting. It was noted that the provision requested provided for the secretariat of the Joint Staff Pension Board, the costs of which were chargeable to the Staff Pension Fund, and the United Nations Staff Pension Committee, the costs of which were chargeable to the United Nations budget. The basis for distribution of costs of this secretariat had been agreed, generally speaking, at two-thirds being charged to the Fund and one-third to the United Nations budget. More specifically, it was estimated that \$78,060 of the \$117,600 requested would be reimbursable by the Fund, and that amount had been taken into account in the estimates for miscellaneous income.

246. The Advisory Committee, in its report, had noted in particular that \$7,690 was estimated as the amount required for the attendance at the annual meeting of the Board, to be held in Paris in 1955, of the nine members of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee. It appeared to the Advisory Committee that, in view of the costs involved, consideration should be given to the possibility in a reduction of the frequency of sessions of the Board, or in the membership of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee. Such a change would require an amendment of the Pension Fund Regulations.

247. Certain delegations, referring to the point raised by the Advisory Committee, expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would give attention to the question and report thereon at the tenth session of the General Assembly. The Committee was informed by the Chairman of the Joint Staff Pension Board of the reasons for the composition of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee, and why it had so far been considered necessary for the Board to meet annually. He further informed the Committee that the question of annual meetings would be given due attention by the Board at its 1955 session.

248. The representative of Denmark expressed satisfaction that the matter had received and would continue to receive attention. On the question of number of representatives, he suggested that a system of voting by proxy might also be studied.

249. The Fifth Committee approved, by 44 votes to none, with 1 abstention, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that \$117,600 be appropriated under section 32 for 1955.

Section 33. The International Court of Justice

250. The Advisory Committee had recommended, in its report on the budget estimates for 1955, a reduction of \$164,150 in the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General for the International Court of Justice under section 33 of the budget. \$162,150 of that reduction related to the provision in the Secretary-General's estimates for the funding of the pensions of the members of the Court, which provision had been included pursuant to the Fifth Committee's decision on this question at the eighth session of the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee had recommended deletion of this provision on purely budgetary grounds, being of the opinion that the proposal involved too heavy an outlay at a time when strenuous efforts were being made to reduce the general costs of the Organization. The Advisory Committee recommended the continuation for 1955 of the method of providing for the pensions of the members of the Court as had been followed in previous years, i.e. provide for the pensions already awarded in the annual appropriations for the Court and for the pensions that might result from the non-re-election of any judges by a provision therefor in the draft resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

251. The Secretary-General had said in his opening statement on the budget estimates (A/C.5/580) that he would very much regret a decision yet again to defer the funding of members' pensions and had pointed out that a postponement of that operation would not be a saving and would not reduce the financial commitments of the Organization. The Committee was also informed by the Registrar of the International Court of Justice that the position of the Court on this question corresponded to that expressed by the Secretary-General.

252. The Committee considered the estimates for section 33 at its 458th meeting. A number of delegations, emphasizing the fact that the members of the Court could be confident that the Organization would not fail them in its pensions obligations, concurred with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee. Certain delegations also pointed to the fact that, with so small a base, actuarial calculation of the size of the fund required for the payment of the pensions was difficult; and that with the passage of time the amount required would necessarily increase. They wondered whether or not it might be well to reconsider the practicability of funding arrangement for these pensions which had

been decided in principle at the first session of the General Assembly although deferred in application. They felt, in any case, that the wisest course at the time would be to continue the present arrangement.

253. The Committee approved, by 44 votes to none, with 2 abstentions, the Advisory Committee recommendation for an appropriation of \$600,450 under section 33 for 1955.

Pension entitlement of the Registrar of the International Court of Justice

254. At its 482nd meeting, the Committee considered, in connexion with Section 33 (the International Court of Justice) of the 1955 budget estimates, the question of the pension entitlement of the present Registrar of the Court. The Committee had before it a memorandum on the subject by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/605) and a report on the item by the Advisory Committee (A/2836 and Corr.1).

255. The Secretary-General, in his memorandum, stated that the present Registrar of the Court who was elected to that office on 23 October 1953 could not participate in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund because of his age although otherwise he would be eligible for such participation. However, paragraph 7 of Article 32 of the Statute of the Court provides that "regulations made by the General Assembly shall fix the conditions under which retirement pensions may be given to members of the Court and to the Registrar, ...". In this connexion, the Secretary-General enumerated the several factors which, apart from the age of the present Registrar, indicated in the opinion of the Court the desirability of carrying out the intention of the framers of the Statute by regarding the Registrar's pension as comparable to the Judges' pension. Following consultations with the representatives of the Court, the Secretary-General had proposed in paragraph 7 of his memorandum (A/C.5/605) certain special provisions in respect of the present Registrar.

256. The Advisory Committee, in its report (A/2836 and Corr.1), while refraining from making any recommendations as it was reluctant to question any opinion expressed by the Court, suggested that should the General Assembly decide that exceptional treatment was warranted, the terms and conditions for participation in the Joint Staff Pension Fund should apply in toto, with the exception of the age limit as provided in article II of the regulations of that Fund, to the



present case. The Advisory Committee further suggested that in the event the Assembly approved the Secretary-General's proposal, an express reservation should be made to the effect that the provision was of an exceptional character and did not constitute a precedent for the future.

257. During the discussion of this question in the Fifth Committee, the representative of the United Kingdom proposed an amendment by which the Advisory Committee's suggestion would be approved "providing that the charges other than the contributions paid by the Registrar and the Organization fall against the Pension Fund and that arrangements are made accordingly". The amending proviso, which was voted on separately, was approved by 18 votes to 5, with 17 abstentions. The Committee then approved by 36 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, as amended.

258. It was understood that in pursuance of the Committee's decision the Joint Staff Pension Board would be requested to make appropriate recommendations, in terms of Article XXXVII of the Regulations of the Pension Fund, for necessary amendments to the regulations and transmit them to the Fifth Committee for consideration at the tenth session.

Section 34. Global reduction in respect of upgrading of established posts

259. In its report on the budget estimates, the Advisory Committee had expressed its view that the number of upgradings proposed in the 1955 estimates was somewhat high and it had accordingly recommended the establishment of a new section, section 34, providing a global reduction in respect of upgrading of established posts in the amount of \$3,000, the amount to be applied at the discretion of the Secretary-General. In his statement to the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/580), the Secretary-General had said that while he did not contest the inclusion in the budget of a new section envisaging a reduction of \$3,000 in the funds appropriated for established posts, he would ask for the Committee's understanding that in agreeing to the recommendation he would in no way be hampered in deciding, in the light of particular organizational requirements, on a suitable level for particular posts, within the limits proposed in the estimates.

260. The Committee considered section 34 at its 458th meeting. Certain delegations, in endorsing the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, expressed concern in what they considered a gradual upward trend in United Nations salaries. It was their opinion that upgradings should be covered by the normal within-grade promotions and the promotion of staff to posts which fall vacant.

261. The representative of Argentina sought information as to where the reduction would be applied, stating that should it be applied to the proposed upgradings at the Economic Commission for Latin America, his delegation could not support the Advisory Committee's recommendation. The representative of the Secretary-General stated that the Secretary-General intended to review the proposed upgradings in the light of the comments of the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee, but it could not be stated at this point how the reduction would be applied.

262. The Committee approved unanimously the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that a new section 34 should be included in the 1955 estimates, to provide for a global reduction of \$3,000 in respect of upgradings of established posts.

# SECOND READING OF THE 1955 BUDGET ESTIMATES

263. At its 483rd meeting, on the basis of a summary of the budget situation submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/614/Rev.1), the Fifth Committee undertook a second reading of the estimates, in the course of which it approved appropriations for each section in the amounts, and by the votes specified below:

Section	Recommended appropriation Dollars (US)	Yes	No	Abstentions
1.	402,700*	34	5	1
2.	No provision proposed			
3.	143,100	34	5	0
3a.	27,200	35	0	5
3b.	101,700	Unanimous		
4.	100,000	Unanimous		
5.	1,776,100	35	5	0
5a.	484,000	33	5	0
6.	2,117,050	33	6	0
6a.	76,650	Unanimous		
7.	657,300	34	5	0
7a.	109,200	Unanimous		
8.	3,687,000	35	5	0
9.	859,200	33	5	0
10.	2,534,000	33	5	0
10a.	290,000	39	0	1
11.	6,236,800	35	5	0
11a.	489,000	34	5	0
12.	2,976,150	34	5	0
13.	510,000	35	5	0
14.	987,500	Unanimous		
15.	3,437,400	35	5	0
16.	3,625,000	34	5	0
17.	171,600	34	5	0
18.	4,721,300	33	5	0

Section	Recommended appropriation Dollars (US)	Yes	No	Abstentions
19.	685,000	34	5	1
20.	905,100	35	5	0
21.	1,152,800	34	5	1
22.	970,700	34	5	1
23.	20,000	Unanimous		
23a.	50,000	33	5	2
24.	716,100	34	5	0
25.	700,000	35	5	0
26.	386,700	Unanimous		
27.	479,400	Unanimous		
28.	768,500	Unanimous		
29.	145,000	Unanimous		
30.	649,500	Unanimous		
31.	2,000,000	Unanimous		
32.	117,600	Unanimous		
33.	600,450	Unanimous		
34.	(3,000)	Unanimous		
Total		35	5	0

\* See paragraph 264 below.

264. The amounts approved above under section 1, and accordingly the total, would be adjusted as required as a result of the decision to be taken regarding the proposal for the holding in 1955 of a Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations. At its 484th meeting, the Fifth Committee approved an amount of \$100,000 for this purpose, as set out in the Fifth Committee's report on that item (A/2885). The amount recommended for appropriation for section 1 was thereby increased to \$502,700, and the amount recommended for the total 1955 appropriation was increased to \$46,963,800.

265. In the course of the second reading, delegations made specific interventions on sections 10a and 18 which are reflected in paragraphs 144 and 201 above respectively.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1955

266. At its 484th meeting, the Fifth Committee had before it a draft resolution relating to the 1955 appropriations (A/C.5/L.328). That draft embodied the decisions taken by the Committee on the sections of the 1955 budget.

267. The Committee approved the draft appropriation resolution by 36 votes to 4. Accordingly, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution on the budget appropriations for the financial year 1955, as set out in annex A to the present report.

DRAFT RESOLUTION RELATING TO UNFORESEEN AND EXTRAORDINARY  
EXPENSES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1955

268. At its 484th meeting, the Fifth Committee considered the resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the financial year 1955. For this purpose, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.5/L.328) which incorporated in the draft resolution recommended by the Advisory Committee (A/2688, page 16) the additional provisions required as a result of the General Assembly decisions on a number of resolutions proposed by other Committees on the financial implications of which the Fifth Committee had submitted reports (see paragraphs 17 and 18 above).

269. The Committee approved the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/L.328 by 34 votes to 4, with one abstention. Accordingly, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the financial year 1955 as set out in annex B to the present report.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

270. The Fifth Committee accordingly recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the resolutions set out in annexes A to E which follow.

ANNEX A

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1955

Draft appropriation resolution for the financial year 1955

The General Assembly

Resolves that for the financial year 1955:

1. Appropriations totalling \$US 46,963,800 are hereby voted for the following purposes:

A. UNITED NATIONS

PART I. SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE COUNCILS, COMMISSIONS  
AND COMMITTEES

<u>Section</u>	<u>Amount in US dollars</u>
1. The General Assembly, commissions and committees.....	502,700
2. The Security Council, commissions and committees.....	-
3. The Economic and Social Council, commissions and committees.....	143,100
3a. Permanent Central Opium Board and Drug Supervisory Body.....	27,200
3b. Regional economic commissions.....	101,700
4. The Trusteeship Council, commissions and committees..	<u>100,000</u>
TOTAL, PART I.	874,700
PART II. SPECIAL MISSIONS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES	
5. Special missions and related activities.....	1,776,100
5a. United Nations Field Service.....	<u>484,000</u>
TOTAL, PART II.	2,260,100

Section

Amount in US dollars

PART III. HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

6.	Offices of the Secretary-General.....	2,117,050
6a.	Office of Under-Secretaries without portfolio.....	76,650
7.	Department of Political and Security Council Affairs....	657,300
7a.	Secretariat of the Military Staff Committee.....	109,200
8.	Department of Economic and Social Affairs.....	3,687,000
9.	Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.....	859,200
10.	Department of Public Information.....	2,534,000
10a.	Visitors' Service.....	290,000
11.	Department of Conference Services.....	6,236,800
11a.	Library.....	489,000
12.	Office of General Services.....	2,976,150
13.	Temporary Assistance and consultants.....	510,000
14.	Travel of staff.....	987,500
15.	Common staff costs.....	3,437,400
16.	Common services.....	3,625,000
17.	Permanent equipment.....	171,600
TOTAL, PART III.		28,763,850

PART IV. EUROPEAN OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

18.	European Office of the United Nations (excluding direct costs, chapter III, Joint Secretariat of the Permanent Central Opium Board and Drug Supervisory Body).....	4,666,800
	Chapter III, Joint Secretariat of the Permanent Central Opium Board and Drug Supervisory Body..	54,500
		4,721,300
19.	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.....	685,000
TOTAL, PART IV.		5,406,300

PART V. INFORMATION CENTRES

20.	Information centres (other than the information services, European Office of the United Nations).....	905,100
TOTAL, PART V.		905,100

<u>Section</u>	<u>Amount in US dollars</u>
PART VI. SECRETARIATS OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS (other than the Economic Commission for Europe)	
21. Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.....	1,152,800
22. Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America.....	<u>970,700</u>
TOTAL, PART VI.	2,123,500
PART VII. HOSPITALITY	
23. Hospitality.....	20,000
23a. Special payments under Annex I, paragraph 2, of the Staff Regulations.....	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL, PART VII.	70,000
PART VIII. CONTRACTUAL PRINTING	
24. Official Records (excluding Chapter V, Permanent Central Opium Board and Drug Supervisory Body).....	704,910
Chapter V. Permanent Central Opium Board and Drug Supervisory Body.....	<u>11,190</u>
25. Publications.....	<u>716,100</u> <u>700,000</u>
TOTAL, PART VIII.	1,416,100
PART IX. TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES	
26. Technical Assistance Administration .....	386,700
27. Economic development.....	479,400
28. Social Activities.....	768,500
29. Public Administration.....	<u>145,000</u>
TOTAL, PART IX.	1,779,600
PART X. SPECIAL EXPENSES	
30. Transfer of the assets of the League of Nations to the United Nations.....	649,500
31. Amortization of the Headquarters construction Loan.....	<u>2,000,000</u>
TOTAL, PART X.	2,649,500



<u>Section</u>	<u>Amount in US dollars</u>	
PART XI. JOINT STAFF PENSION BOARD AND UNITED NATIONS STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE		
32. Joint Staff Pension Board and United Nations Staff Pension Committee.....	<u>117,600</u>	
TOTAL, PART XI.		117,600
PART XII. THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE		
33. The International Court of Justice.....	<u>600,450</u>	
TOTAL, PART XII.		600,450
34. Global reductions in respect of upgradings of established posts.....	<u>(3,000)</u>	
		(3,000)
GRAND TOTAL.....		<u>46,863,800*</u>

2. The appropriations voted by paragraph 1 shall be financed by contributions from Members after adjustment as provided by the Financial Regulations, subject to the provision of paragraph 1 of the resolutions relating to the Working Capital Fund. For this purpose, miscellaneous income for the financial year 1955 is estimated at \$US 6,832,600.

3. The Secretary-General is authorized:

(1) To administer as a unit the following appropriations:

(a) Provisions under Section 3a; Section 18, Chapter III; and Section 24, Chapter V;

(b) Provisions under Section 10; Section 18, Chapter II; Section 20 and in respect of Section 25 for items relating to public information;

(c) Provisions under Sections 24 and 25.

(ii) To apply the reduction under Section 34 to various Sections of the Budget;

(iii) With the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to transfer credits between sections of the Budget.

4. In addition to the appropriations voted by paragraph 1, an amount of US \$13,000 is hereby appropriated for the purchase of books, periodicals, maps and library equipment, from the income of the Library Endowment Fund, in accordance with the objects and provisions of the endowment.

ANNEX B

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1955

Draft resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses

The General Assembly,

Resolves that, for the financial year 1955,

The Secretary-General, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and subject to the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, is authorized to enter into commitments to meet unforeseen and extraordinary expenses; provided that the concurrence of the Advisory Committee shall not be necessary for:

- (a) Such commitments not exceeding a total of \$ US 2,000,000 if the Secretary-General certifies that they relate to the maintenance of peace and security or to urgent economic rehabilitation;
- (b) Such commitments as are required for the Ad Hoc Commission on prisoners of war;
- (c) Such commitments as may be required for the United Nations Good Office Commission on the treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa;
- (d) Such commitments as are required for the convening of an International Conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy;
- (e) Such commitments not exceeding a total of \$ US 165,000 as are required for the purchase of Korean Service medals;
- (f) Such commitments not exceeding a total of \$ US 25,000 as are occasioned by the holding of an inter-governmental Commodity Conference;

(g) Such commitments duly certified by the President of the International Court of Justice, relating to expenses occasioned:

- (i) By the designation of Ad Hoc Judges (Statute, Article 31);
- (ii) By the appointment of assessors (Statute, Article 30), or by the calling of witnesses and the appointment of experts (Statute, Article 50);
- (iii) By the maintenance in office of judges who have not been re-elected (Statute, Article 13, paragraph 3);
- (iv) By the holding of sessions of the Court away from The Hague (Statute, Article 22);
- (v) By the payment of travel and removal expenses of judges not re-elected, and travel and removal expenses of new members of the Court;
- (vi) By the payment, as necessary, to judges of pensions not awarded prior to 15 July 1954,

and not exceeding \$24,000, \$25,000, \$40,000, \$75,000, \$4,000 and \$26,000 respectively under each of the above six headings.

(h) Such commitments not exceeding a total of \$18,000 as may be required in the event of the coming into force during 1955 of the Protocol for Limiting and Regulating the Cultivation of the Poppy Plant, the Production of, International and Wholesale Trade in, and Use of Opium.

(i) Such commitments not exceeding a total of \$15,000 as are occasioned by the convening of the International Technical Conference on the conservation of the living resources of the sea.

The Secretary-General shall report to the Advisory Committee and to the General Assembly, at its next regular session, all commitments made under the provisions of the present resolution, together with the circumstances relating thereto, and shall submit supplementary estimates to the General Assembly in respect of such commitments.

ANNEX C

WORKING CAPITAL FUND FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1955

The General Assembly,

Resolves that:

1. The Working Capital Fund shall be maintained to 31 December 1955 at the amount of \$US 21,500,000, to be derived:
  - (a) As to \$20,000,000 from cash advances by Members in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present resolution;
  - (b) As to \$1,500,000 by previously made transfers from surplus account as follows:
    - (i) \$1,239,203, being the balance of surplus account as at 31 December 1950 not already applied against Members' assessments for 1951, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 585 A (VI);
    - (ii) \$260,797, as part of the balance of surplus account at 31 December 1951 not already applied against Members' assessments for 1952, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 676 (VII);
2. Members shall make cash advances to the Working Capital Fund as required under paragraph 1 (a) above in accordance with the scale adopted by the General Assembly for contributions of Members to the tenth annual budget;
3. There shall be set off against this new allocation of advances the amounts paid by Members to the Working Capital Fund for the financial year 1954, under General Assembly resolution 788 (VIII) of 9 December 1953, provided that, should such advance paid by any Member to the Working Capital Fund for the financial year 1954 exceed the amount of that Member's advance under the provision of paragraph 2 hereof, the excess shall be set off against the amount of contributions payable by that Member in respect of the tenth annual budget, or any previous budget;
4. The Secretary-General is authorized to advance from the Working Capital Fund:
  - (a) Such sums as may be necessary to finance budgetary appropriations pending receipt of contributions; sums so advanced shall be reimbursed as soon as receipts from contributions are available for the purpose;

(b) Such sums as may be necessary to finance commitments which may be duly authorized under the provisions of the resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. The Secretary-General shall make provision in the budget estimates for reimbursing the Working Capital Fund;

(c) Such sums as, together with net sums outstanding for the same purposes, do not exceed \$125,000, to continue the revolving fund to finance miscellaneous self-liquidating purchases and activities. Advances in excess of the total of \$125,000 may be made with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Secretary-General shall submit, with the annual accounts, an explanation of the outstanding balance of the revolving fund at the end of each year;

(d) Loans to specialized agencies and preparatory commissions of agencies to be established by inter-governmental agreement under the auspices of the United Nations to finance their work, pending receipt by the agencies concerned of sufficient contributions under their own budgets. In making such loans, which shall normally be repayable within two years, the Secretary-General shall have regard to the proposed financial resources of the agency concerned, and shall obtain the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for any cash issues which would increase the aggregate balance outstanding (including amounts previously advanced and outstanding) at any one time to an amount in excess of \$1,500,000 and for any issue which would increase the balance outstanding (including amounts previously advanced and outstanding) in respect of any one agency to an amount in excess of \$500,000;

(e) Such sums not exceeding \$35,000 as may be required to finance payments of advance insurance premiums where the period of insurance extends beyond the end of the financial year in which payment is made. This amount may be increased with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Secretary-General shall make provision in the budget estimates of each year during the life of the related policies to cover the charges applicable to each such year.

ANNEX D

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1955

Use of income derived from the Staff Assessment Plan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Use of income derived from the Staff Assessment Plan" (A/C.5/584 and Corr.2) and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon (A/2799),

Having regard to the deliberations of the Fifth Committee on this subject during the ninth session of the General Assembly,

Requests the Secretary-General to continue his negotiations with those Member States which have not yet become a party to the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations or adopted alternative measures under which appropriate relief would be granted all United Nations officials in so far as national income taxation is concerned, and to submit a report thereon as soon as possible before the opening of the tenth session of the General Assembly, together with the comments of the Advisory Committee on that report,

Decides to postpone to the tenth session of the Assembly further consideration of measures to be taken by the General Assembly towards a solution of the problem.

ANNEX E

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1955

Increase in the dependency credit under the Staff Assessment Plan for the Staff at Headquarters.

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that an inequity of treatment exists under the Staff Assessment Plan between staff members with dependents and those without dependents,

Resolves that, as a temporary measure, notwithstanding article 4 of resolution 359 (IV) of 10 December 1949, the following dependency credits shall be given between 1 January 1955 and 31 December 1955 to staff members stationed at Headquarters or at Washington, D.C.

- (i) a credit at the rate of two hundred dollars per annum shall be granted for a wife, or a dependent husband, or a dependent parent, brother or sister, or a dependent child, or a mentally or physically incapacitated child over 16 years of age;
- (ii) an additional credit at the rate of one hundred dollars per annum shall be granted for each additional dependent child, for whom credit has not been granted under paragraph (i) above.

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