



**CONTENTS**

	<i>Page</i>
Agenda item 43:	
Budget estimates for the financial year 1957 ( <i>continued</i> )	
First reading ( <i>continued</i> )	
Section 8. Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Section 21. Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East; Section 22. Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America; Sections 26 to 29 (Technical Assistance Administration; Economic development; Social activities; Human rights activities; Public administration) ( <i>continued</i> ) .....	135

**Chairman: Mr. Omar LOUTFI (Egypt).**

**AGENDA ITEM 43**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1957  
(A/3126 and Add.1, A/3160, A/C.5/658,  
A/C.5/L.407 and Corr.1) (*continued*)\***

**First reading (*continued*)\***

SECTION 8. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS; SECTION 21. SECRETARIAT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST; SECTION 22. SECRETARIAT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA. SECTIONS 26 TO 29 (TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; SOCIAL ACTIVITIES; HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES; PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION) (A/3369, A/3430, A/3439, A/C.5/663 to 667, A/C.5/L.419) (*continued*)\*

1. In reply to a question put at the 554th meeting by Mr. BANDEIRA GUIMARAES (Portugal) concerning methods of avoiding duplication between the economic surveys planned for Africa and the activities of technical organs in Africa South of the Sahara, Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that the steps envisaged for 1957 were of an exploratory and fact-finding nature and that the Advisory Committee in its report (A/3369), had stressed the need for a specific programme of action adequately developed and approved by the General Assembly. The Secretariat would, of course, take special care to ensure close co-ordination between the work of the United Nations and the efforts of other agencies in the region under consideration.

2. Mr. DE SEYNES (Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs) explained that the Secretariat kept abreast of the activities of the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara and had already exchanged documents with that body on matters of common interest. In addition, the Director of the Statistical Office had participated in a meeting organized

\* Resumed from 554th meeting.

at Brazzaville by the World Health Organization and the Commission and it appeared that the United Nations could be particularly helpful in connexion with the preparation of statistics and the analysis of economic problems.

3. Moreover, the United Kingdom representative could rest assured that the exploratory and fact-finding steps envisaged for 1957 would be covered by a specific plan of action, for the expenditure involved could in no circumstances be incurred without proof of necessity.

4. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) recalled that the Economic and Social Council in resolution 630 B (XXII) had requested the Secretary-General to prepare, for the use of the General Assembly at its twelfth session, a report on the results of the experience gained in the posting of social affairs staff. Since the regional social affairs units would not be homogeneous in form, the main requirement for the purpose of assessing their efficiency and preparing the report requested by the Council would be to ascertain whether they were able to perform the functions for which they had been established, as defined in document A/C.5/665. In addition, the report should state whether all the countries in a particular region had benefited from the services of the social affairs units without discrimination, and, if that had not been the case, it should describe the problems encountered.

5. Mr. VEJVODA (Czechoslovakia) considered that it was the Fifth Committee's duty to study the sections of the budget dealing with economic and social activities very closely and to bear in mind in that connexion, the structural changes proposed in previous years. At the ninth session, in his report on the organization and work of the Secretariat in the economic field (E/2598, para. 34), the Secretary-General had called for close co-ordination between the Technical Assistance Administration and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Moreover, the report of the Fifth Committee to the tenth session (A/3103, para. 28) stated that some delegations had expressed regret that the Secretary-General had not seen fit to proceed with a merger of the Technical Assistance Administration and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and in its report to the current session (A/3160, para. 21), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had trusted that the question of a merger of the Technical Assistance Administration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs would be kept under review.

6. The contemplated merger was a potential source of considerable economies. The moneys thus saved could be used to finance the economic development of the under-developed countries as, for example, by granting larger appropriations for the regional economic commissions, the importance of whose functions had been emphasized by many delegations. Care should also be taken to improve co-ordination between programmes

and to strike a satisfactory balance between targets and available resources. In the Second Committee the Czechoslovak delegation had expressed concern at the delays encountered with regard to the measures designed to assist the under-developed countries. It accordingly asked members of the Fifth Committee to seek ways of solving that problem quickly with due regard for the priority of the various projects.

7. The Czechoslovak delegation would support the USSR proposal (A/C.5/L.419) requesting the Secretary-General to give effect to a merger of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with the Technical Assistance Administration in 1957.

8. Mr. GREZ (Chile) said that, much to his regret, he was unable to support the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning the regional social affairs units. With a view to strengthening the authority of the regional economic commissions, he formally proposed that the appropriations for the regional social affairs units should remain under sections 21 and 22 instead of being transferred to section 8 as the Advisory Committee recommended.

9. Mr. FORTEZA (Uruguay) expressed complete agreement with the Chilean representative's views on the work and needs of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA).

10. At its last meeting, ECLA had supported the Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of regional social affairs units, because it had felt that the social aspects of economic development should not be neglected. To ensure that every advantage was taken of the proposed measure, the unit assigned to Latin America should be made an integral part of the ECLA secretariat.

11. The appropriations for the regional social affairs units should accordingly be placed under sections 21 and 22 as the Chilean representative had proposed.

12. Mr. PAREJA Y PAZ SOLDAN (Peru), Mr. GALVAO (Brazil) and Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Bolivia) supported the Chilean proposal.

13. Mr. PEACHEY (Australia) stated with reference to section 28a that Australia had always objected to having the cost of technical assistance programmes charged against the ordinary budget except in case of emergency. The organization of two seminars and the provision of fellowships were not emergency matters, and there was not even any certainty that the appropriations requested would be used to the full, as the curriculum of the second seminar had not yet been determined.

14. The Australian delegation would abstain on the proposal to increase the appropriation under section 29, because although it recognized the force of the Secretary-General's arguments, it considered that the 1957 budget was already very heavy.

15. Mr. RANSHOFEN-WERTHEIMER (Austria) observed that the execution of important economic development programmes might be hampered by a lack of qualified staff. The Secretary-General's proposal accordingly appeared to be wholly justified, even though the Austrian delegation, by reason of the very heavy burdens which recent political developments had imposed upon its Government, hesitated to vote an additional appropriation at the present stage.

16. Although Austria itself stood in little need of technical assistance except, perhaps, in so far as agriculture was concerned, it was amazed that it had not been asked to do more for other countries in that direction. Austrian experts admittedly were not always masters of English or French, but the number of such experts called upon by the United Nations was disproportionately small in comparison with the number from other small and medium-sized countries.

17. Mr. GANEM (France) said that, in view of the lack of time available to the Committee he would refrain from making the statement he had planned to deliver on several important matters. Those were specifically the relationship between the regional economic commissions and Headquarters and the degree of decentralization required; and the draft resolution proposed by the Soviet delegation (A/C.5/L.419) under which the Fifth Committee would approve the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and request the Secretary-General to give effect to a merger of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with the Technical Assistance Administration in 1957. While the French delegation did not have any basic objection to such a plan, it would like to explain its point of view in detail. If, therefore, an assurance was given that it would have an opportunity to make detailed observations early in January, it would be willing to cast an immediate vote in favour of the recommendations agreed upon between the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General.

18. The CHAIRMAN reminded the French representative that the Committee was the master of its work programme and assured him that he would have an opportunity of speaking again on the matters to which he had referred.

19. Mr. ARDOLAN (Iran) recalled that at the 554th meeting, a letter from the President of the General Assembly had been read out relating to the adoption by the Second Committee of a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.294, draft resolution IV) under which, in accordance with the Secretary-General's recommendation, approval was given to increased activity in the field of technical assistance for public administration. Appropriations for economic development and social activities had so far been much larger than those for technical assistance in public administration, for the latter had remained static at an annual rate of \$145,000 since 1950. The Secretary-General was now recommending that the amount should be increased to \$300,000 in view of the need: firstly, to supplement the work undertaken under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance; secondly to enable TAA to carry out the indispensable substantive work at Headquarters; lastly to meet a large variety of needs (A/C.2/189 and Corr.1 and Add.1) which could not be satisfied under the Expanded Programme. In the under-developed countries attempting to utilize their resources, Governments were compelled to take action in all sectors of economic activity. As foreign experts were very expensive and hard to find, it was essential that competent officials should be trained in each country. It would therefore be most unfortunate if an attempt was made to achieve economies in that part of the technical assistance programme, since without an efficient public administration, the efforts made in other fields might not bear fruit.

20. As advantage must also be taken of the considerable material accumulated during the last five years (A/C.2/189, para. 19), his delegation accordingly suggested that the Fifth Committee should take note of the draft resolution adopted by the Second Committee and should recommend the General Assembly to endorse the Secretary-General's recommendations (A/C.5/663, para. 28) that the appropriation in section 29 for technical assistance in public administration should be increased to \$300,000 (or \$100,000 more than had been recommended by the Advisory Committee).

21. Mr. FORTEZA (Uruguay) agreed with the Iranian representative. He had had occasion to appreciate the work of the Technical Assistance Administration in the field of public administration during the extremely rewarding seminar held at Montevideo at the end of 1954. As the Secretariat had pointed out (A/C.2/189, para. 20) the adaptation of general assistance in administration to the needs of specialized governmental services for labour, health, agriculture and education raised problems that could not be satisfactorily solved by intermittent correspondence and contacts with the specialized agencies. An additional appropriation of \$155,000 would not necessarily lead to a large increase in the number of permanent officials at Headquarters, but would enable the Public Administration Division of the Technical Assistance Administration to enlist the temporary services of specialists of repute who would assist a small overworked permanent staff. The increase would also make it possible to fill a large number of existing gaps. The Advisory Committee had not seen fit to accept an increase of more than \$55,000 (A/3430, para. 28), but he wondered whether it would not reconsider its position in the light of the resolution adopted by the Second Committee at its 405th meeting by 53 votes to none, with 9 abstentions. For his part, he hoped that the Fifth Committee would endorse the Secretary-General's recommendation just as the Second Committee had done.

22. Mr. NATANAGARA (Indonesia) recalled that the Indonesian representatives had, in various United Nations organs, frequently explained the importance their country attached to technical assistance in public administration. Such assistance was, in fact, indispensable for the success of economic and social development programmes. He hoped that the Committee would approve the additional appropriation of \$155,000 in section 29 as recommended by the Secretary-General.

23. As his delegation favoured a policy of decentralization, it endorsed the Chilean representative's proposal that the necessary appropriations for setting up regional social affairs units should come under sections 21 and 22 rather than in section 8.

24. Mr. DIPP GOMEZ (Dominican Republic) said that he unreservedly approved the appropriation recommended by the Secretary-General under section 29 even though in proportion to the enormous needs of the under-developed countries in that regard, the sum of \$300,000 was, in fact, very modest. His delegation would also support the Chilean representative's proposal, as it was bound to increase the value of ECLA's services to the Latin American countries.

25. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that he had not yet been able to consult the members of his Committee, but was generally of the opinion that the appropriate amounts to be allocated

from the regular budget towards the cost of technical assistance programmes would depend primarily on a decision of policy taken by the General Assembly. Although he fully appreciated the need for expanding the scope of technical assistance in public administration, it should be noted that the recommended allocation represented an increase of more than 100 per cent of the sum voted each year since 1950. He therefore wondered whether it would not be wiser to proceed more gradually.

26. Mr. DIEGUEZ (Guatemala) pointed out that countries requiring technical assistance might not derive full benefit from it, owing to the lack of qualified officials. It was therefore extremely important that adequate sums should be allocated for the field of public administration in the regular programme of technical assistance, if an unfortunate lack of balance between the various activities of the Technical Assistance Administration was to be avoided. The Central American countries already had three establishments providing training in that field, and were particularly anxious that the Secretary-General's recommendation should be approved. Since the Second Committee had adopted its draft resolution by an overwhelming majority, it would be regrettable if the Fifth Committee, on which representatives of the same countries sat, did not follow its example.

27. Mr. JONES (United States of America) recalled that his delegation was accustomed to support the view of the Advisory Committee, whose competence and objectivity the United States delegation respected. However, in the particular case of technical assistance in public administration, the reasons advanced by the Secretariat, especially in document A/C.2/189/Add.1, justified the \$300,000 requested by the Secretary-General. Those funds would mean more effective programming in public administration. The United Nations had a unique mission to accomplish in that field, and everything must be done to ensure its success.

28. Mr. BUNCHOEM (Thailand) recalling the position taken by his delegation at the 394th meeting of the Second Committee on the question of public administration, supported the Iranian proposal relating to section 29. His Government was grateful to the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East for its efforts on behalf of the peoples of that region, and would have been glad to support the Secretary-General's proposals for section 21 and 22. It would not, however, oppose the Advisory Committee's recommendations on condition that the appropriations for the regional social affairs units were included in sections 21 and 22 rather than in section 8.

29. Mr. J. AHMED (Pakistan) said that he would like to make a few remarks on the Iranian proposal concerning section 29. In the first place, ever since the technical assistance programmes had been initiated, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had placed increasingly greater emphasis on the importance of public administration. He recalled the decisions taken by both bodies in that regard between 1948 and 1953. Secondly, the Technical Assistance Administration was receiving requests from Governments for assistance of that kind at an increasing rate. The number of such requests had risen from 85 in 1951 to 643 in 1955 and to about 800 in 1956. The number of expert-months provided by the Technical Assistance Administration had been steadily increasing since 1951.

It was expected that for 1957 requests under the various technical assistance programmes would comprise 73 experts, 11 training programmes and 150 scholarships in the field of public administration alone. Thirdly, if the United Kingdom representative's suggestion at the 554th meeting for charging the cost of those activities against the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance was adopted, other technical assistance programmes of equal importance would suffer. There could be no doubt that the Secretary-General had explored all possible means of obtaining funds for public administration before submitting the recommendation taken up by the Iranian representative. Lastly, in view of the adoption of the Second Committee draft resolution by an overwhelming majority and of the discussion in that Committee on the resolution, his delegation hoped that the Fifth Committee would accept the Iranian proposal and would, on the present occasion, albeit with regret, vote against the Advisory Committee's recommendations for section 29.

30. Mr. CHECHETKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that he had indicated at the 554th meeting what he considered to be the main tasks of the United Nations, what defects required to be remedied and what concrete measures would render the action of the United Nations in the economic and social field more effective. The Soviet delegation did not object to the last-mentioned question being considered later on in the eleventh session.

31. Regarding the purely budgetary aspects of the matter, he drew attention to the fact that the appropriations requested under sections 21, 22 and 29 were higher by \$300,000, \$178,000 and \$155,000, respectively, than those for the current financial year, the total being \$650,000 more than in 1956. His delegation did not oppose the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on sections 21 and 22. However, since the proposal to increase the appropriation requested for section 8 by \$155,000, as compared with the 1956 figure, was contrary to the general recommendation of the Advisory Committee (A/3160, para. 17), his delegation proposed that the appropriation for section 8 should be reduced to the 1956 level of \$3,337,000, by a reduction of \$231,100 in the figure recommended by the Advisory Committee (A/C.5/L.407 and Corr.1). Within the limitations imposed by that appropriation, the Secretariat could carry out the main projects such as that on industrialization, as well as all the high priority projects, but would have to defer less urgent projects, in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (A/3160) and its Chairman (A/C.5/690).

32. Mr. TURNER (Controller), replying to two questions from Mr. POLLOCK (Canada), said it was true that the initial estimates for the regional social affairs units had included no provision for travel costs, because it had been hoped that the appropriations requested for the regional economic commissions or for Headquarters could be drawn upon. It had become clear, however, that such action would be prejudicial to the execution of the regional commissions' programmes or to the functioning of the Headquarters services in 1957 and that the Office of the Controller had perhaps been over-zealous in underestimating the requirements. It was therefore extremely desirable that the Secretary-General's recommendations should be approved by the Committee, on the understanding that any increase in the travel appropriations, however slight,

would require of the Secretariat even greater care to ensure that the funds appropriated were distributed on a strict priority basis. In that connexion, the austerity measures taken under the heading of travel were already being painfully felt. The Committee would realize that, even if it met the Secretary-General's request, the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee in the sections relating to economic and social activities would still amount to \$100,000. The Secretary-General was simply asking the Committee to accept his proposals to restore an amount of \$3,000 for travel costs in connexion with industrialization and to appropriate an additional \$15,000 for travel in connexion with the regional social affairs units.

33. Referring to the Chilean proposal to include the appropriations for two of the regional social affairs units in sections 21 and 22 rather than in section 8, Mr. Turner drew attention to the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/665), in which the technical aspects of the question were treated in detail. The representative of Chile and his supporters could rest assured that those budgetary arrangements would in no way prejudice the effectiveness of the programmes carried out by the secretariats of the regional commission and by the Headquarters staff. The Secretary-General felt that the Advisory Committee was right, for those units would, in a manner of speaking, constitute "forward echelons" of the Headquarters.

34. Mr. POLLOCK (Canada) thanked the Controller for his explanation and said he would vote in favour of the additional appropriation of \$15,000 to cover the travel costs of the social affairs specialists. He was sure that the information given concerning certain features of the budget would enable the representative of Chile to withdraw his proposal, so that unanimity on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee could thus be achieved. The Canadian delegation was pleased to note that those recommendations, except for the one relating to public administration, were very close to the Secretary-General's proposals. On the question of public administration, it fully realized that the activities of the United Nations in that field enabled many States to derive greater benefit from the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. His delegation would therefore, even though somewhat reluctantly, depart from the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and from the principle that all technical assistance costs should be covered by the Expanded Programme, and would vote in favour of the proposal of the representative of Iran.

35. Mr. GREZ (Chile) maintained his proposal.

36. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote paragraph 1 of the Soviet proposal (A/C.5/L.419).

*The paragraph was adopted by 38 votes to 6, with 8 abstentions.*

37. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the Secretary-General had not changed his view since the tenth session on the question of formally merging the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with the Technical Assistance Administration.

38. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote paragraph 2 of the Soviet proposal (A/C.5/L.419).

*The paragraph was rejected by 33 votes to 6, with 14 abstentions.*

39. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Chilean proposal to include in sections 21 and 22 the appropria-

tions for the regional social affairs units which had been included in section 8.

*The proposal was adopted by 28 votes to 14, with 13 abstentions.*

40. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the oral proposal made by the USSR representative at the current meeting to reduce by \$231,100 the appropriations recommended by the Advisory Committee under section 8 (A/C.5/L.407 and Corr.1).

*The proposal was rejected by 41 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions.*

41. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the recommendations of the Advisory Committee relating to sections 8, 21 and 22 (A/C.5/L.407 and Corr.1) as amended by the adoption of the Chilean representative's proposals.

*The recommendation for an appropriation of \$3,455,000 under section 8 was approved on first reading by 44 votes to 6, with 1 abstention.*

*The recommendation for an appropriation of \$1,524,300 under section 21 was unanimously approved on first reading.*

*The recommendation for an appropriation of \$1,206,200 under section 22 was unanimously approved on first reading.*

42. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the recommendations of the Advisory Committee relating to sections 26 to 28a (A/C.5/L.407 and Corr.1).

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$386,700 under section 26 was unanimously approved on first reading.*

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$479,400 under section 27 was unanimously approved on first reading.*

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$925,000 under section 28 was unanimously approved on first reading.*

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation \$55,000 under section 28a was approved on first reading by 52 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.*

43. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Iranian proposal to increase by \$100,000 the amount of the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee under section 29, making a total appropriation of \$300,000 under that section.

*The proposal was adopted on first reading by 41 votes to 2, with 9 abstentions.*

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.