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### BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1950 (FIFTH ANNUAL BUDGET AND WORKING CAPITAL FUND)

#### Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Dr. Maria Z. N. WITTEVEEN (Netherlands)

#### I

1. In accordance with instructions given by the General Assembly at its 224th plenary meeting, the Fifth Committee considered the budget estimates of the United Nations for the financial year 1950, as submitted by the Secretary-General and reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. At its 235th meeting on 8 December 1949, the Fifth Committee decided to recommend approval of estimates in the total amount of \$41,641,773 representing a reduction of \$1,845,355 below the sum appropriated for 1949. At the same meeting the Committee approved the estimate of miscellaneous income in the amount of \$5,091,740, to be applied as an offset against estimated expenditure for 1950 for the purpose of assessment of contributions from Member states to the fifth annual budget. Estimated net expenditure for 1950 will thus amount to \$35,550,033 or \$2,142,545 less than the corresponding figure for 1949.

2. The total amount to be assessed for the financing of the 1950 budget will, however, be further reduced, in accordance with the terms of Regulation 17 of the Provisional Financial Regulations, by the following sums:

(a) Surpluses in 1948 appropriations and miscellaneous income	\$1,390,636
(b) Savings effected in the liquidation of prior years' obligations	568,791
(c) Adjustment in appropriations and estimated income for 1949 (A/C.5/354)	391,938
(d) 1949 Contribution of one new Member state admitted in 1949; Israel (A/C.5/354/Rev.1)	27,085
	<u>\$2,378,450</u>

As a result of these reductions, assessment of contributions from Member states for the financial year 1950 will amount, if appropriations are

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approved as recommended, to \$34,171,583, as compared with \$41,617,000 for 1949, or a decrease of \$7,445,417.

3. The Committee had before it the original budget estimates and information annexes presented by the Secretary-General (A/903), the second report of 1949 of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/934), special papers presented by the Secretary-General on Sections 10, 11, 13, 15 and 20 of the budget estimates (A/C.5/307, 308, 309, 311 and 310, respectively) and a number of further reports and information papers on specific items or projects affecting the 1950 estimates, submitted by the Secretary-General at the request of the Committee. In the course of its meetings the Committee furthermore received additional papers both from the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General on the basis of which it submitted to the General Assembly, in accordance with Rule 142 of the Rules of Procedure, the following reports on the financial implications of policy recommendations made by other Committees:

The problem of the independence of Korea	A/1027
Economic development of under-developed countries: Technical assistance for economic development	A/1072
Interim Committee of the General Assembly	A/1073
Threats to the political independence and territorial integrity of Greece: United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans (and Repatriation of Greek Children)	A/1092 and Corr.1
Question of the disposal of the former Italian Colonies	A/1109
Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements	A/1108
United Nations Field Service	A/1122
Refugees and Stateless Persons	A/1177
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories	A/1166
Palestine: Assistance to Palestine Refugees	A/1223
Palestine: International Regime for Jerusalem	A/1234

4. In addition to the above questions, the Committee was required to consider, with a view to the submission of necessary budgetary or other appropriate recommendations such matters as the financial implications of decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its ninth session, including changes effected in its 1950 calendar of meetings and in the

programmes and responsibilities of the regional commissions (A/C.5/319, 324, 339, A/1046, 1056, 1071); decisions taken by the Trusteeship Council at its fifth session regarding the place of its next meeting and the 1950 visiting mission (A/C.5/317, 318, 318 Corr.1, A/1040); the establishment of an Information Centre in Liberia (A/C.5/L.19, A/C.5/321, 349, A/1047, 1085); the effect on the 1950 budget estimates of the devaluation of certain national currencies (A/C.5/335, A/1086); the salaries and allowances of the judges and registrar of the International Court of Justice (A/C.5/336, 363, A/1087); the report of the Committee of Experts on Salary, Allowance and Leave Systems and the report and proposals of the Secretary-General connected therewith (A/C.5/331 and Corr.1, Add.1 and Corr.1 ((French only)) and 2, 331/Add.2 and Add.3); the operation of the Staff Assessment Plan, including its application to the International Court of Justice, and the question of tax reimbursement, (A/C.5/303, 329, A/C.5/L.7); extension of the Palais des Nations in Geneva to accommodate the headquarters of the World Health Organization (A/C.5/361 and Add.1, A/1150); and a number of supplementary estimates resulting from decisions taken by the Fifth Committee on items on its agenda such as the establishment of an Administrative Tribunal and the organization of a United Nations Postal Administration. Reference should be made also to the estimates for the United Nations Commissions for India and Pakistan (A/C.5/338, A/1070) and for Indonesia (A/C.5/356, A/1158). Though policy decisions regarding the future of these missions have not yet been taken by the Security Council by whom they were established, the Committee deemed it desirable to make specific provision for these missions, in Section 6 of the 1950 budget estimates, based in the main on expenditure actually incurred during 1949.

5. Throughout its deliberations, the Committee had the assistance of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions who, in accordance with established practice, was invited to sit with the Committee and to participate in its discussions.

6. The general debate on the budget estimates was preceded by statements made by the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. The Secretary-General informed the Committee, at its 191st meeting on 8 October 1949, that, with certain reservations, he was willing to accept the recommendations of the Advisory Committee with respect to 25 of the 30 sections of the budget but that he could not do otherwise than contest in part the reductions proposed for the remaining 5 sections relating to the Departments of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs, Public Information, Conference and General Services, and the Geneva Office. For these 5 sections, the Secretary-General requested the restoration of \$885,550 of the reduction proposed by the Advisory Committee, representing approximately one-half of the aggregate amount of \$1,786,750 by which the latter had recommended the budget as a whole should be reduced. The reasons for this request were set forth in detail in the five special papers referred to in paragraph 3 above (A/C.5/307 to 311). Serious doubts were expressed by the Secretary-General as to whether the funds proposed by the Advisory Committee for some other sections would suffice; he stated, however, that he was ready to make the experiment.

7. In introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the budget estimates, the Chairman of that Committee explained that its recommendations involved in the aggregate a reduction of 4 per cent on the Secretary-General's estimates. This represented a smaller percentage reduction than the Committee had proposed in previous years (4 1/2 per cent in 1948 and 10 per cent in 1947), a fact which reflected the steadily increasing efficiency of the administrative and budgetary services and the Secretariat as a whole. Past budgetary surpluses and the probability that there will again be a sizeable surplus in 1949, proved that, on the whole, the Advisory Committee had not been too severe in its recommendations. The Advisory Committee had been at pains never to deviate from the guiding principle that in no instance should its recommendations be such as to interfere with programmes already approved by the General Assembly. The difficulty, or rather impossibility, both for the Administration and the Advisory Committee, of minute precision in estimating far ahead of the date, when the results of that process were applied, should be borne in mind. If, in the course of the coming year the Secretary-General found that in any given part or parts of the budget the Committee's actions had interfered with essential activities, there were various remedies open to him and, moreover, the Secretary-General could rest assured that the Advisory Committee would be ready and anxious to come to his assistance.

/8. During the

8. During the next four meetings of the Fifth Committee (192nd to 195th meetings held on 7, 10 and 11 October 1949), there ensued a general discussion of the budget proposals for 1950 in the light of the initial statements presented by the Secretary-General and by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. It appeared to be the feeling of many delegations that the budget estimates for 1950 bore witness to the fact that the greater rationalization of the Organization's activities resulting from three years' experience, had made possible a more exact and reliable estimate of actual needs and that, in consequence, a reasonable degree of financial and administrative stability might now be anticipated. Some members of the Committee expressed the view that for the purposes of all normal activities and services, the budget should be stabilized at a sum not exceeding \$35,000,000 though others, while equally desirous of seeing the Organization achieve a relatively stable level of expenditure, questioned the desirability of fixing any arbitrary ceiling. Their emphasis was rather on the necessity of ensuring that the best possible use was made of the funds placed at the disposal of the Organization so that the results obtained should be proportionate to the outlay. Satisfaction at the progress made in this direction, however, tended to be tempered by certain misgivings regarding annual increases in the number of personnel, a movement which had not been sufficiently curbed as appeared from the Secretary-General's request for 195 new posts for 1950. There still was too great a tendency to react to each new task laid upon the Secretariat with a request for additional staff. As one means of guarding against undue staff expansion, there were recurring references to the importance of avoiding over-specialization and of increasing the versatility and adaptability of existing staff by facilitating inter-departmental transfers and greater flexibility with respect to short-term assignments. In this manner, the Secretariat would find it increasingly possible, in the opinion of many delegations, to absorb new tasks without any undue increase of personnel.

9. Frequent references were made also to the multiplication of United Nations activities and the danger of attempting to deal with too many problems too quickly. Several delegations stressed the necessity of establishing an order of priority and pointed out that while the Secretary-General was necessarily bound by decisions of the General Assembly or of other organs, certain requests nevertheless left him a good deal of latitude to decide at what speed and to what extent particular projects should be carried out in any given year. In this connexion it was also argued that if the United Nations limited itself to handling only essential and urgent problems which it alone was able to deal with, and if it slackened the tempo of its activities, questions of the highest priority and importance would then be more carefully and thoroughly prepared and considered by all concerned, and the Organization would thus be made a more effective instrument of international collaboration than is the case at present. In this connexion it was also pointed out that the Organization had failed so far to develop any coherent system of international conventions and had tended to rely instead merely on adopting resolutions of questionable juridical value.

10. Many members expressed their regret at the fact that it had not been possible for the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee to reconcile their views on a number of questions; this made the task of the Fifth Committee, which was never easy, more difficult. It was realized that if the Secretary-General had not been able to accept some of that Committee's recommendations, he had done so with regret and only after careful consideration. On the other hand, the advice of the Advisory Committee was of primary importance to the Fifth Committee in the fulfillment of its responsibility and the Committee had always been greatly aided in its work by the assistance of the Advisory Committee the recommendations of which, arrived at after intensive study of the Secretary-General's proposals, carried great weight with the Fifth Committee. The Committee would, therefore, have to examine with special thoroughness those sections of the budget with respect to which such differences of opinion had arisen. While some members believed that the Advisory Committee might have been too severe in some of its recommendations, it was felt by other members that that Committee had not gone far enough.

/The suggestion

The suggestion was made, both during the general debate and subsequently, that the Secretary-General should accept the reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee in their entirety, on the understanding that he would be authorized to draw from the Working Capital Fund such sums as might be necessary for carrying out approved programmes and for engaging temporary staff should existing staff and appropriations, as agreed by the General Assembly, prove insufficient. It was the opinion of the majority of delegations, however, that this would be unsound budgetary procedure; the Committee should provide the Secretary-General with adequate means for the proper and economical discharge of his functions, and recourse should not normally be had to the Working Capital Fund for financing expenditure which was clearly anticipated and for which provisions should therefore more properly be made in the budget itself.

11. Other specific problems to which various delegations called attention included the question of relations between regional economic commissions and the Department of Economic Affairs at Headquarters (these, it was suggested, should be the subject of a particularly careful study by the Economic and Social Council); the amount at which the Working Capital Fund should be maintained; surpluses on the operation of the budget which could be attributed both to over-provision and to good administration; the desirability of both Member Governments and the Secretariat continuing their efforts to limit the number of meetings and in particular of seeing to it that, as a general rule, meetings are held at Headquarters; the administrative structure of the Secretariat which some members, drawing attention to the Advisory Committee's remark on the private offices of the Assistant Secretaries-General, considered top-heavy while others held that the staff should consist of a much smaller number of highly qualified personnel; the need for continuing attention to the problem of equitable geographical distribution, especially with respect to more senior posts throughout the Secretariat; the importance of ensuring a strict control over publications, with a view to reducing the size of certain publications and of eliminating the need for printing very specialized bulletins and reports of limited interest; and the importance of ensuring strict observance of the provisions of Rules 142 and 143 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, under which the Fifth Committee is required to study and report on the financial implications of all proposals before these are acted upon by the General Assembly.

12. Virtually all representatives participating in the debate emphasized the many demands which were being made on the limited resources of their Governments and the fact that current financial difficulties resulting from the grave dollar shortage made it imperative that the activities of the Organization should be carried out with a maximum of economy and efficiency. In this connexion a number of representatives urged that the possibility of arranging for payment of Member States' contributions, or part thereof, in soft currencies should be fully explored. At the same time, there was a widespread feeling that continuing progress had been achieved during the past year towards the fuller realization of the administrative and budgetary objectives which the Fifth Committee had repeatedly reaffirmed and that both the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee were to be commended for the careful and conscientious manner in which they had discharged their responsibilities.

13. The Committee began a more detailed "first reading" of the budget estimates at its 195th meeting, after deciding to follow the procedure adopted at the last session of using the reports and recommendations of the Advisory Committee as its basic text. During the following meetings of the Committee, questions of principle together with specific proposals for the reduction or increase in the amounts recommended by the Advisory Committee were discussed and voted upon, regard being had, where appropriate, to the effect on the estimates as originally prepared, of subsequent actions taken by the General Assembly or other organs of the United Nations, or to other developments resulting in consequential adjustments in estimated requirements. In the course of a "second reading" of the estimates at the 232nd and 233rd meetings held on 30 November and 2 December 1949, the Committee agreed on the final appropriations for each section of the budget to be recommended to the General Assembly for approval.

14. During the first reading, certain questions which had a bearing on the estimates in several sections of the budget, or which were in the nature of special questions dealt with as a matter of convenience under the general budget item, were examined separately, namely, contractual printing, tax equalization and the staff assessment plan, the effect of the devaluation of certain national currencies (with reference particularly to the salaries and allowances of the Judges and Registrar of the International Court of Justice) recommendations of the Secretary-General and the Committee of Experts regarding the United Nations salaries, allowances and leave system, the venue of the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council and their commissions and committees, and the extension of the Palais des Nations in Geneva to accommodate the headquarters of the World Health Organization. The results of the Fifth Committee's deliberations on these questions are set forth hereunder.



## II

### Contractual Printing

15. Following an earlier proposal made by the representative of Brazil, the Fifth Committee, at its 203rd meeting, took up consideration of the overall estimates for contractual printing as provided for in various sections of the budget. As a basis for discussion, the Committee had before it a paper prepared by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/316) showing the amounts provided for contractual printing in each section of the budget estimates together with the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee. The Fifth Committee was informed that the Secretary-General accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendations that the total sum to be appropriated for printing in 1950 should be \$1,904,690, representing reductions aggregating \$210,770 on the amount originally estimated. It was requested by the Secretary-General, however, that this latter sum be shown as a global deduction from the total estimates made under a single additional section (Section 28), as was done in the 1949 budget. The amounts relating to each particular section would consequently have to be adjusted.
16. In the course of discussion of these estimates, and again at the Committee's 224th meeting when the effect on the budget estimates of currency devaluations was under consideration, a number of delegates urged that, in line with the observations of the Advisory Committee, more intensive efforts be made to place a larger proportion of printing contracts in soft currency countries. It was stated, on behalf of the Secretariat, that continuing efforts would be made in this direction though no firm assurance could be given that the proportion of documents printed abroad could be greatly increased. For the most part, this could only be done in the case of those categories of documents which did not carry a time limit, including particularly backlog material and special studies. The placing of such contracts abroad, moreover, entailed certain disadvantages which tended to counter-balance the advantages of lower printing costs, e.g., inability to maintain the close and effective control possible at headquarters over printing and printing contracts, cost of transportation, and the occasional necessity of buying paper with hard currency in order that the printing itself may be carried out in a soft-currency country.
17. It was decided that the Committee should also consider, in conjunction with the estimates for contractual printing, the recommendations and observations contained in Chapter III of the Second Report of 1949 (A/934) of the Advisory Committee, relating specifically to reproduction and distribution of documents. It appeared to be the feeling of the Committee, in general, that these recommendations merited sympathetic study and

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consideration by both Member Governments and the Secretary-General as pointing to the possibility of useful economies, although a number of delegations expressed reservations as to the desirability or practicability of some of the Advisory Committee's proposals. Attention was called particularly to the recommendation that the majority of publications should be printed monolingually (paragraph 32). In this connexion the view was expressed that certain basic documents such as the Charter, Rules of Procedure, the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Councils, and Conventions should be provided in bilingual form. An assurance was given on behalf of the Secretary-General that this would be done as far as possible within budgetary limitations, regard being had to the fact that Spanish, in addition to English and French, was now a working language of the General Assembly. There appeared to be general agreement that the selection of documents to be printed other than monolingually could best be left to the judgment of the Secretary-General. With respect to the recommendation concerning corrections to summary records (paragraph 35), there was general agreement that rigid rules should be avoided and, instead, a working relationship developed between the delegations and the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the necessity of considering the question of economy in all cases involving lengthy corrections to official records, due regard being paid especially to cases where important prepared statements are concerned.

18. The problem of determining the most satisfactory arrangements for the distribution of documents whereby Member Governments' requirements in the matter of documentation would be adequately met with a minimum of delay and a maximum of economy, was discussed at some length. The advantages and disadvantages of a centralized as contrasted with a multiple system of distribution were considered. It was agreed that existing lists should be reviewed and that, as a first step, the Secretariat should request each delegation to state exactly what documents were actually needed.

19. Following conclusion of the discussion on the printing estimates, at the Committee's 204th meeting, the suggestion was accepted that the Secretary-General be invited to take into account, during the financial year 1950, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee as set forth in paragraphs 32 to 35 of its report, together with the observations thereon presented by representatives of member states in the course of discussion in the Fifth Committee. It was further agreed that the Member Governments concerned could, if they so desired, inform the Secretary-General of their views on the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

/The recommendation

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the estimates for contractual printing be reduced by a total of \$212,770 to \$1,904,690, and the request of the Secretary-General that this sum be treated as a global reduction to be applied under Section 28 to the appropriate sections of the budget, were approved without objection.

Tax Equalization - Staff Assessment Plan

20. At its 212th to 214th meetings, the Fifth Committee examined a report submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/329 and Add. 1) pursuant to resolution 239 (III) adopted by the General Assembly on 18 November 1948, in which he reviewed certain problems that had arisen in the course of the first year's operation of the Staff Assessment Plan and presented, for the consideration of the Fifth Committee, a number of recommendations relative thereto. In addition, the Committee had before it the text of a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee by the President of the International Court of Justice (A/C.5/L.7) and a further memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/303) concerning the application of the Staff Assessment Plan to the salaries of the Registrar and the staff of the Registry of the International Court of Justice. The report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/329 and Add. 1) raised a number of points for consideration by the Committee, including (a) minor amendments, which experience had shown to be necessary, to the provisions of part A of resolution 239 (III); (b) the problem of whether contributions and benefits under the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund should be calculated on a basis of net or gross salaries; (c) the question of extending to the year 1950 the authority vested in the Secretary-General for 1949 by part D of resolution 239 (III) to draw, if necessary, on the Working Capital Fund for reimbursement to staff members or national income taxes paid by them in respect of salaries and other emoluments received from the United Nations; and (d) reimbursement of state and local income taxes.

21. The amendment proposed by the Secretary-General to article 1 of part A of resolution 239 (III) would authorize the Secretary-General, where in special circumstances he deems it necessary and expedient, to exempt from the Staff Assessment Plan salaries and other emoluments of staff engaged at locality rates, such as those serving missions of the United Nations or its smaller field offices. It was explained to the Committee that experience had pointed to the need for the Secretary-General having such authority in order to provide for necessary flexibility of administration. A further amendment of the same article, proposed by the representative of Poland and involving the deletion of the words "for each calendar year beginning" and the insertion after "31 December 1948" of the phrase "and until this Resolution is re-examined at the fifth session of the General Assembly", was rejected by 8 votes to 5, with 26 abstentions.

/The amendment

The amendment proposed by the Secretary-General was then approved by 29 votes to none, with 9 abstentions. The Secretary-General further requested that he be granted authority to reduce the standard credits for dependents under the Staff Assessment Plan in cases where salaries are paid at locality rates which diverge widely from headquarters salary scales, and to continue beyond 1949 the exemption in respect of dependent children, as well as to provide for its equation with the amount of Children's Allowance actually paid in each instance. Amendments to articles 4 and 5 of resolution 239A (III) incorporating these proposals were approved by 32 votes to none, with 7 abstentions in the case of the proposed change of article 4, and by 32 votes to none, with 8 abstentions in the case of article 5. The Fifth Committee then decided by 32 votes to 1, with 7 abstentions to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the revised text of part A of resolution 239 (III) as set forth in the draft resolution appended to this report as resolution IV. The representative of Brazil made the specific reservation that the whole question of the Staff Assessment Plan should be subject to review in the light of any changes occasioned by acceptance of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on Salary, Allowance and Leave Systems.

22. It was understood that the proposed amendment to part A of resolution 239 (III) would not affect parts B, C and D of that resolution, which consequently remained in full effect, and that in particular the request contained in part C that Members accede to the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations or in any other manner grant relief from double taxation, would continue to stand.

23. With regard to the question whether contributions and benefits under the Joint Staff Pension Fund should be calculated on the basis of gross or net salaries, the Committee, after noting the intricate issues involved as set forth in the Secretary-General's report and as further verbally elucidated by the Chairman of the Staff Pension Committee, decided to accept the Secretary-General's proposal that the question should be further studied and a report submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifth session. Some delegations, however, expressed their inability to support such a proposal since, in view of their objection in principle to the Staff Assessment Plan, they considered further study of the matter could serve no useful purpose.

/24. With reference

24. With reference to the Secretary-General's request that the authority granted him for 1949 to draw, if necessary, on the Working Capital Fund for the purpose of reimbursing staff members required to pay national income taxes on salaries and allowances received from the United Nations, the Secretary-General informed the Committee that efforts to secure favourable action by the Congress of the United States had unfortunately not been successful, largely because of the particularly heavy legislative agenda including many important international problems of direct concern to the United Nations, with which the Congress had been faced during the exceptionally long session recently concluded. The Secretary-General had not, therefore, felt able to press for ratification of the general Convention on Privileges and Immunities although the United States Executive Administration had made all possible efforts to obtain such ratification. He believed, however, that there were good grounds for anticipating satisfactory action at the following session. The Secretary-General furthermore explained that it had not been necessary for him to draw on the Working Capital Fund for the purpose of tax reimbursement in 1949, but for reimbursement in 1950 it would almost certainly be necessary for him to do so. In this connexion the Secretary-General expressed his gratification that agreement had been reached with the appropriate United States authorities to delay payment for 1949 taxes by United States nationals until 15 March 1950, and he assured the Committee that he would not have recourse to the Working Capital Fund unless obliged to do so. Finally, the Secretary-General emphasized that the Secretariat should not be divided into two groups one subject to taxation and the other exempt; such a situation would have serious and unfortunate consequences on staff morale. The Committee heard a detailed enumeration from the representative of the United States of the actions taken by the Congress and by the Executive Branch of the United States Government during the past year. He advised the Committee that he had been informed by the Executive Branch that it would again urge passage of legislation for the ratification of the Convention or would introduce other appropriate legislation. A number of delegations expressed the view that the Staff Assessment Plan had been introduced as a purely artificial expedient and could be justified only insofar as it enabled certain governments which had previously not exempted United Nations emoluments from national taxation to do so without ratifying the general Convention. Since this result had not been achieved, the expedient served no further purpose and should be abandoned leaving the way open for the situation to be regularized by the accession of all Member States

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to the general Convention. Delegations who shared this opinion accordingly declared their unwillingness to support a further extension of the authorization to draw upon the Working Capital Fund which originally had been granted only on an interim basis. Other delegations, however, could not agree to the view that the Staff Assessment Plan was merely a device to make possible the ratification of the Convention. Some delegations agreed that tax-free contracts signed prior to November 1947 should be honoured and taxation reimbursed, but for contracts signed after that date some other procedure should be found. On the other hand, the undesirability of any arrangement which would discriminate against a certain section of the staff was stressed and the hope was expressed that in the course of the following year all countries which had not yet done so would ratify the Convention or would notify their intention to exempt their citizens from national taxation. Attention was called to inevitable delay of parliamentary procedure and to the consideration that the principle of tax exemption was contrary to United States tradition as also to the fact that Member Governments which had not deposited instruments of accession to the General Convention on Privileges and Immunities did not necessarily levy taxation on the income received by their nationals from the United Nations.

25. The Committee decided by 34 votes to 8, with 3 abstentions, that the authorization to draw upon the Working Capital Fund should be extended to 1950 and that provision therefor should be made under the resolution relating to the Working Capital Fund.

26. After having noted the view of the Appeals Board and of the Advisory Committee (para. 9 and Annex E of A/C.5/329), and the fact that these corresponded with the conclusions reached by the Secretary-General, the Fifth Committee further decided that the Secretary-General should be authorized to reimburse staff members in respect of income taxes imposed by state or other local authorities in addition to national (federal) income taxes levied upon salaries and allowances received by them from the United Nations.

27. As regards the question of whether the Staff Assessment Plan should apply to the salaries of the Registrar and the members of the staff of the Registry of the International Court of Justice, the Fifth Committee considered the memorandum submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/303) which contained, as Annex C, a memorandum of the Advisory Committee on the matter, and the letter from the President of the Court (A/C.5/L.7). It heard explanations by the representative of the Court and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. The point of view of the Court

/in this matter

in this matter, as supported by certain delegations, was to the effect that no legal grounds existed for application of the plan to the personnel of the Court, reference being made in this connexion to the terms of resolution 239 (III) and of paragraph 8 of Article 32 of the Statute of the Court. Moreover, it was maintained that the sole purpose of resolution 239 (III) had been to resolve certain difficulties which did not arise so far as the Court was concerned in view of the agreement between the Netherlands Government and the Court under which the salaries of members of the Court and of officials of the Registry were free of all taxation. Other representatives, however, considered that since the Court was an organ of the United Nations, the staff of the Registry should be subject to regulations applying to all United Nations personnel and that in any event, the question at issue was simply one of whether, to ensure uniform presentation of the budget, the salaries of Court officials were to be calculated on a gross or net basis. The Committee decided by 28 votes to 4, with 6 abstentions, that the budget estimates of the International Court of Justice should indicate salaries of the Registrar and members of the Registry staff on a gross basis, together with appropriate income from the Staff Assessment Plan established by resolution 239 (III). As a result of this vote the Staff Assessment Plan will apply to the Registrar and the staff of the Registry, and a uniform presentation of the budget of the United Nations will thus be ensured.

Effect of devaluation of certain currencies on the budget estimates for 1950

28. At its 224th meeting, the Fifth Committee considered the effect of the devaluation of currencies by certain countries on the budget estimates for 1950 on the basis of estimates furnished by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/335) and of the observations thereon by the Advisory Committee as contained in its Twenty-first report of 1949 (A/1086). In presenting his estimates, the Secretary-General stated that these estimates were of a provisional nature and that more detailed analysis of the budget and of the savings resulting from devaluation would become possible only when the full impact of devaluation on local prices was known. For the present, however, savings had been estimated on the assumption that costs in the countries which have devalued their currencies would stay within reasonable limits of the pre-devaluation levels - the possibility of an average price increase of the order of 10 per cent having been allowed for. Anticipated savings from devaluation as estimated by the Secretary-General amounted to \$397,600.

/It was

It was assumed, however, that some additional savings would probably accrue as a result of which the Secretary-General requested that the budget estimates for 1950 be considered as affected by devaluation by a round figure of \$425,000. This figure did not take into account savings which would arise under Section 6 of the budget estimates (Investigations and Enquiries), which savings would be reflected in the estimates to be submitted separately for each of the missions. The Secretary-General requested the Fifth Committee to treat the total of anticipated savings on account of devaluation as a global deduction from the total estimates under a single additional section (Section 29), in order that the amount might be appropriately spread during 1950 over the sections concerned, in the light of developments.

29. The Advisory Committee, after reviewing the Secretary-General's estimates, stated that it would have preferred that the fullest possible force should have been given to devaluation considerations, any adjustments due to consequential increases in cost of living or rising prices of materials being met either from savings on the budget generally or by supplementary estimates. In view, however, of the number of problematical factors, the Committee did not wish to press the question at the present time. Accordingly, the Committee had considered mainly the extent to which, on the evidence of the note by the Secretary-General, the Secretariat would avail itself of suitable opportunities for savings, for example by contracting for services and supplies in various countries which had recently devalued their currencies. The Advisory Committee indicated certain items on which further savings could be reasonably anticipated, particularly in connexion with contracts for printing and also for other supplies or services, and accordingly recommended that the token figure of \$425,000 proposed by the Secretary-General as a global deduction should be increased to \$500,000 on the understanding that provision for new items under Section 6 would reflect the devaluation process. The Committee was further of the opinion that should devaluation not be accompanied by price adjustments to the extent reflected in the Secretary-General's estimates, additional savings would accrue under the various sections of the budget.

30. Discussion of these estimates in the Fifth Committee emphasized in particular the opinion of a number of delegations that it should be possible to achieve on a total printing estimate of approximately \$2,000,000 a larger saving than the \$75,000 envisaged and that the estimated saving on permanent equipment more of which it was hoped, could be bought in soft



currency countries, was especially low. It was pointed out in reply by the representative of the Secretary-General that in view of the time factor and other considerations only part of the printing could be done abroad and savings anticipated under the heading of printing were estimated at 15 per cent of the total appropriation in view of the fact that countries in which such printing was most likely to be carried out had devalued their currencies by an average of 15 per cent only. Furthermore, it was impossible to say in advance how much equipment could be bought in the soft currency area, which depended on offers made. The representative of the International Court of Justice explained the savings anticipated in that part of the estimates. Certain delegations were of the opinion that the analysis of the situation presented by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/335) was inadequate both in detail and in development and that in general the estimates had been made on altogether too conservative a basis. On the other hand it was argued that the question of how much savings would in fact result from devaluation was necessarily highly speculative since no one could foresee at this time how the situation would develop, particularly in the matter of price adjustments. The Secretary-General had endeavoured to be realistic, while the Advisory Committee had taken a somewhat more optimistic view which the former did not in any way oppose. The Committee then accepted by 30 votes to none, with 5 abstentions, the figure of \$500,000 proposed by the Advisory Committee as the total savings likely to accrue in 1950 in consequence of devaluation of currencies by certain countries. It further agreed to the proposal that this sum be placed in a new section (Section 29) of the budget as a global deduction to be applied by the Secretary-General to the various sections concerned.

Salaries of the Judges and the Registrar of the International Court of Justice

31. In connection with the general problem of devaluation, the Committee discussed at considerable length during its 224th, 225th and 233rd meetings, the problem of what adjustment, if any, should be made with respect to the salaries and allowances of the Judges and Registrar of the International Court of Justice, which under General Assembly resolution 19(I) of 6 February 1946 and 85(I) of 11 December 1946 had been fixed in terms of Netherlands florins. The Secretary-General, in a memorandum to the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/336), while making no recommendation in the matter, transmitted the text of a communication from the International Court of Justice setting forth that the amount of the salaries, allowances and compensation of the Judges and the Registrar were fixed in Netherlands florins, and that the corresponding budget credits had always been expressed in terms of dollars,

/their amounts

their amounts being computed at the rate of exchange current at the date of the relevant resolutions. In view of Article 32, Paragraph 5, of the Statute of the Court these credits had not been reduced in the revised estimate presented by the Court in consequence of recent currency devaluation. Suggestions as to the procedure which the Fifth Committee might wish to follow, were made in the communication. The Fifth Committee also had before it in this connection the Twenty-second report of 1949 of the Advisory Committee (A/1087) which had considered the administrative and budgetary aspects of the matter and recommended that the existing arrangements should stand pending further study of cost of living trends and other aspects of the general problem.

32. The Committee, at its 224th meeting, heard statements from the President of the Court and from the Deputy-Registrar, explaining the legal and practical considerations on which the Court had based its opinion. It was maintained by the President that if, in accordance with the Advisory Committee's suggestion, Section 27 of the budget estimates, which were drawn up in dollars, was reduced as a result of the devaluation of the florin, the salaries and allowances of the members of the Court would be correspondingly decreased and that such action would be in direct contradiction to the terms of Article 32, paragraph 5 of the Statute of the Court. The only method of computing the "real value" of the emoluments, to which that Article referred, would be to take the value of the florin in terms of dollars at the time of the adoption by the General Assembly of the resolutions fixing those emoluments (Resolutions 19(I) and 85(I)). The Committee was also requested to bear in mind the fact that the Registrar was entitled to receive a salary assimilated to that of a top-ranking director of the United Nations. Since the latter salary was fixed in dollars, the Court, therefore, intended to apply a differential to the Registrar's salary after consultation with the Secretary-General.

33. The views of the Court were supported by some delegations who felt that considerations of equity as well as those of a constitutional nature required that the dollar amounts provided in the budget estimates for the payment of salaries and allowances to members of the Court should be maintained. The opinion was also expressed that, in case of the Committee deciding to fix the emoluments in dollars, the adoption of a resolution along the lines of the draft contained in the Secretary-General's Note (A/C.5/336) would seem to be an appropriate procedure. Other delegations considered it was incorrect to interpret Article 32 of the Statute of the Court as implying that such emoluments should be calculated in dollars. Article 32 would not

/be infringed

be infringed by a reduction in the dollar appropriations since in terms of florins, in which they had been fixed, the emoluments remained exactly the same. It would be regrettable, moreover, if the United Nations took any measure contrary to the policy which those governments who had devalued their currency were endeavouring to pursue, of holding prices and incomes to the pre-devaluation level. Still other delegations called attention to the fact that the judges were not obliged to reside continuously at The Hague and that insofar as their own countries had not devalued to the same extent as the Netherlands, their real income would certainly be decreased, were their salaries to remain on the same florin basis. It was therefore considered that the problem was not a simple one and that a solution should be sought which afforded an assurance of reasonable stability in the real value of their income, irrespective of residence.

34. The Committee, at its 225th meeting, adopted by 14 votes to 10, with 9 abstentions, a proposal of the representative of the United States requesting the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Advisory Committee and the representatives of the Court, to review the question of payment of salaries and allowances of the Judges and Registrar, taking into consideration (a) the general salary and allowances policies of the United Nations and (b) the effect of devaluation on the real income of the Judges and Registrar. The Secretary-General, in the light of these consultations, was requested to submit to the Fifth Committee at its current session any recommendations arising therefrom, or, if this was found impossible, to inform the Committee accordingly.

35. In accordance with this request, the Secretary-General informed the Fifth Committee at its 233rd meeting that in consultation with the President and the Deputy-Registrar of the Court, agreement had been reached that a long-run solution could be found only after a full study of the whole situation (as recommended by the Advisory Committee). This opinion was transmitted in a note (A/C.5/363), considered by the Fifth Committee in conjunction with the second reading of the budget estimates for Section 27, in which the Secretary-General recommended that such a study should include the following stages:

- (a) review of the original basis of establishing the salaries of the Judges and the Registrar;
- (b) Analysis of these salaries in the light of United Nations policy after consideration of the report of the Committee of Experts, regard being had particularly to salary rates for top officials and to the principle of salary differentials;

/(c) study of

- (c) study of cost of living at The Hague in relation to New York;
- (d) review of the effects of devaluation after a reasonable period of time.

The Secretary-General reported that it would be impossible to complete this study in time for the submission of valid recommendations to the General Assembly at its present session. He assumed that the General Assembly would not desire, having regard to the spirit of Article 32 of the Statute of the Court, to diminish the real value of the salaries of the Judges, and he recommended that the decision finally taken on this question should be made retroactive. It was stated that the Advisory Committee agreed in principle with the views expressed by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 1-3 of his note, and that that Committee suggested, in connection with paragraph 4, that the question of any change in the salaries of the Judges or the date at which such a change might be operative, would be clearly a matter for recommendation by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly at its fifth session. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee explained that whatever decision the General Assembly might take at its next session, it would be retroactive.

36. During further debate at the Committee's 233rd meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom proposed that the credit of \$634,765 for Section 27 should be maintained and that the Fifth Committee take note of the fact that if no change were to be made in the salaries and allowances of the Judges and the Registrar of the Court, a saving of approximately \$97,000 would be effected in 1950. Several delegations expressed the view that either the appropriations should be maintained at their present dollar level and the salaries in florins consequently increased, or the salaries in florins should be maintained at their present level and the appropriations in dollars correspondingly reduced. Other delegations, however, considered that the maintenance of the dollar appropriations as approved on first reading would in no way pre-judge the solution of the problem by the General Assembly at its next session. Any decision which the General Assembly would then take, on the basis of the study to be carried out, would be applied retroactively, in which event it was possible that part or all of the sum appropriated might be required.

37. It was decided that the United Kingdom proposal should be voted on in two parts. The first part, namely that the appropriation of \$634,765 for Section 27 should be maintained, was accepted by 37 votes to none, with 1 abstention. Following the rejection, by 24 votes to 8, with 5 abstentions, of a proposal made by the representative of Belgium for amending the second

/part of the

part of the United Kingdom proposal to read as follows: "This decision assumed that the Secretary-General will assign the whole of the appropriations in Chapter I, paragraphs (1) and (11), and Chapter III, paragraph (1) of Section 27 to the salaries of the judges and registrar of the Court", the Committee approved the remainder of the United Kingdom proposal by 31 votes to 4, with 4 abstentions. The proposal as a whole was then accepted by 31 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions.

#### Review of the Salary, Allowance, and Leave Systems

38. The General Assembly, in approving on 11 December 1948 the report of the Fifth Committee on the Fourth Annual Budget of the United Nations (A/798) expressed its agreement that a comprehensive review of the salary, allowance and leave system be undertaken by the Secretary-General for consideration by the General Assembly at its fourth regular session, and that a working party of three independent experts, to be appointed by the Secretary-General in agreement, with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, should assist in this review. A Committee of Experts was duly appointed for this purpose and its report, presented to the Secretary-General on 31 October 1949, was communicated by the latter to the General Assembly on that date (A/C.5/331). Following consultations with the specialized agencies and with the Staff Committee, the Secretary-General, on 15 November 1949, submitted to the General Assembly his views on the proposals set forth in the report of the Committee of Experts, together with his recommendations as to action required by the General Assembly, and communicated the comments made by the specialized agencies (A/C.5/331/Add. 1 and Corrs. 1 and 2, A/C.5/331/Add. 2 and Add. 3). Annexed to this report of the Secretary-General were memoranda setting forth the views of the United Nations Staff Associations both at Headquarters and at Geneva.

39. The Secretary-General expressed the opinion that the Committee's report represented a well conceived and balanced plan, the essential features of which, if adopted, would achieve notable improvement in administration and would be of substantial long-term benefit to the staff. He accordingly announced his readiness, subject to reservations on certain points, notably in connexion with the proposed change in the basis of home leave, to give effect without delay to the essential features of the plan, provided the Assembly agreed to take the necessary complementary action. Such action, in the Secretary-General's opinion, would involve amendment of certain provisional staff regulations and an adjustment of the salary ceiling fixed by previous resolutions of the General Assembly. A draft resolution providing for these adjustments was included in

/the report

the report of the Secretary-General for consideration by the Fifth Committee. According to this proposed text the General Assembly would: agree with the desirability of simplifying the organization and classification of the staff in accordance with principles set forth by the Committee of Experts; note the intention of the Secretary-General, within budgetary limitations, to incorporate in the staff rules certain other recommendations of the Committee of Experts which are within his authority as Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization; resolve that certain provisional staff regulations be superseded or amended; resolve that certain salaries and representation allowances be modified; and request the Secretary-General to recommend to the fifth regular session of the General Assembly permanent Staff Regulations to replace the provisional regulations now in existence.

40. The Committee was informed that acceptance of the Secretary-General's recommendations would make possible budgetary savings of not less than \$300,000 in 1950, increasing to approximately \$1,250,000 by 1956. In the event of favourable action being taken, the Secretary-General requested that these savings be reflected in a new section of the 1950 budget estimates providing for a global reduction of \$300,000 to be applied to the various sections of the budget as appropriate. The attention of the Fifth Committee was also called to the fact that several specialized agencies were awaiting decisions on these questions as a basis for changes in their own systems of salaries and allowances, and that further delay on the part of the United Nations would place an additional obstacle in the way of greater uniformity of conditions of service as between the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

41. The report and recommendations of the Secretary-General relating to the report of the Committee of Experts were discussed by the Fifth Committee at 227th and 228th meetings. In the course of this discussion the Committee heard explanatory statements from the Chairman of the Committee of Experts as well as from representatives of the Secretary-General. Tribute was paid to the Committee of Experts for its thorough study of the question and its lucid and constructive report. In general, most delegations participating in the discussion commented favourably on the basic recommendations of the Committee of Experts although reservations were expressed, in a number of instances, on particular features of the proposed plan. In particular several delegations affirmed their support of the principle of home leave every two years and of the maintenance of an expatriation allowance on substantially the present basis. It was also emphasized that any changes in salaries or allowances should not be preponderantly in favour of higher-ranking staff, and that the proposed system of recruiting was at variance with the principle of geographical distribution. Some other delegations urged that in striving after perfection in details, the Committee should not lose sight of the general advantages for both staff and administration which would result from the implementation of

the essential features of the new plan at a not too distant date. For the greater part, however, the discussion revolved around questions of procedure rather than of substance.

42. The representative of Belgium considered that two preliminary questions should first be answered, namely: (a) what were the points on which it was necessary for the Committee to take a decision, and (b) was it practicable at this stage of the Assembly's work to deal effectively and properly with so important a matter, with full knowledge of all relevant facts. On the first question, the representative of Belgium, supported by a number of other representatives, maintained that the Committee could not accept the draft resolution as submitted by the Secretary-General. The procedure followed during the first part of the first session of the General Assembly when the Secretary-General had been given general provisional powers, was not acceptable now that the General Assembly was served with a document which was essential for the establishment of definitive staff regulations. The fundamental reorganization of the administration currently under consideration should be reflected in the revised Staff Regulations and it was for the General Assembly to fix the basic principles of those regulations through resolutions covering such matters as salary scales, allowances, conditions of work, leave, etc. This necessarily required the Fifth Committee to consider in detail all the proposals set forth in the report of the Expert Committee. With regard to the second question, the view was expressed that there was clearly insufficient time at the Committee's disposal to proceed with such a detailed consideration at this session. The representative of Poland formally proposed that the draft resolution submitted by the Secretary-General should be referred to the Advisory Committee for study and report to the Fifth Committee at its next session. The representative of Brazil, reminding the Committee that the report of the Committee of Experts had been drawn up at the express wish of the General Assembly and on the Advisory Committee's recommendation, moved that the Committee should refer the report of the Committee of Experts to the Advisory Committee for detailed study, with a request that it report to the Fifth Committee at its next session and that the Secretary-General be asked to furnish the additional data necessary for such a study including, in particular, a draft manual of standard post descriptions.

43. Other delegations, however, were opposed to postponement of the matter and considered that the basic recommendations of the Committee of Experts could be implemented in the near future. In the view of these delegations, it was clear that with respect, for example, to proposals concerning the organization and classification of the Secretariat, the Secretary-General was fully competent to take decisions. It was therefore argued that the Secretary-General should be responsible for the application of the plan and the

/Fifth Committee

Fifth Committee for the examination of the results of such application. Accordingly, it was proposed by the representative of the United States that the Fifth Committee should restrict itself to taking note of the fact that the Secretary-General accepted certain parts of the report and had expressed his intention of putting them into effect as rapidly as possible. He urged that other recommendations having important budgetary implications, such for example, as those dealing with allowances and home leave, should be referred immediately to the Advisory Committee for examination and report to the Fifth Committee at the present session.

44. At a later stage in the discussion, the representative of Belgium formulated his proposal as follows:

"The Fifth Committee decides to refer to the Advisory Committee the report of the Committee of Experts on Salary, Allowance, and Leave Systems (A/C.5/331) and the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/331/Add.1) with the request that the Advisory Committee submit to the General Assembly, at its fifth session, its conclusions and recommendations regarding the questions raised in those reports, including the texts of draft resolutions and amendments to the Staff Regulations." This text was accepted by the representatives of Poland and Brazil.

45. The representative of Canada then moved that the Fifth Committee should refer the reports of the Committee of Experts and of the Secretary-General to the Advisory Committee for examination in the light of the discussion which had taken place, with the request that the latter should, as soon as possible, report back to the Fifth Committee on those questions on which, in its opinion, it was desirable and practicable for the General Assembly to act at that session, together with its recommendations relating thereto. This motion, in turn, was accepted by the representative of the United States. After a short discussion the Committee agreed to accept the Canadian proposal as a substitute amendment to the joint Belgian-Polish-Brazilian resolution and to proceed to the vote. The Canadian amendment was rejected by 18 votes to 17, with 4 abstentions. The joint Belgian-Polish-

/Brazilian proposal



Brazilian proposal was then approved by 21 votes to 11, with 7 abstentions. It was suggested that since many delegations had not expressed their views on the substance of the Expert Committee's proposals, delegations desiring to do so should send their opinions to the Secretary-General in writing.

45.(a) Although action on the report of the Salary, Allowance and Leave Systems has been postponed until the next session of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee reaffirms the view that its decision should not be interpreted as diminishing in any way the authority vested in the Secretary-General by the Charter to effect those improvements in the United Nations system of personnel administration which are consistent with the staff regulations and within the limits of existing budgetary appropriations.

Extension of the Palais des Nations in Geneva and accommodation therein of the Headquarters of the World Health Organization

46. At its 230th and 231st meetings the Fifth Committee considered a report presented by the Secretary-General, on arrangements proposed by him in connexion with the extension of the Palais des Nations in Geneva in order to accommodate therein the Headquarters of the World Health Organization and with

the granting of a lease to that Organization (A/C.5/361). In this report, the Secretary-General described a project for the provision of approximately 210 additional offices through the surelevation of the Ariana wing, the construction of a new wing, and internal changes in the existing building. He further reported on the progress of negotiations relative to the accommodation of the Headquarters of the World Health Organization in the Palais des Nations. The report of the Secretary-General had been considered in a preliminary and informal way by the Advisory Committee whose observations were set forth in its thirty-first report of 1949 (A/1160).

47. The Committee was informed that, since the date of the Secretary-General's report, the Building Committee of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization had decided to accept a gift of 3,000,000 Swiss francs, which had been generously offered by the Swiss Government. The total cost of the project being estimated at between 3,500,000 and 4,000,000 Swiss francs, the balance of expenditure which falls to be approved by the World Health Organization would, consequently, be of the order of 500,000 to 1,000,000 Swiss francs. As was stated by the Advisory Committee in its report, according to the information furnished to it, the project would not involve the United Nations in any additional expenditure not offset by corresponding revenue. The Building Committee had also approved unconditionally the proposed project (as described in paragraph 14 of A/C.5/361), and had agreed to the proposed terms of occupancy (as set forth in paragraph 16 of A/C.5/361). In the latter connexion an assurance was given that nothing in the proposed agreement would impair the privileges granted to the International Labour Organization, with respect to the use of the Assembly Hall and the Library in the Palais des Nations, under General Assembly resolution 79 (I) of 7 December 1946.

48. Assurances were also given on behalf of the Secretary-General, in response to points raised in the course of the discussion, that the appropriate Swiss authorities had been consulted in the matter and had given their full agreement; that due attention had been given to considerations of an architectural and aesthetic nature in drawing up the plans for the proposed extension of the Palais and that these plans had taken into account the extensions originally envisaged by the architects of the building; and that reasonable possibilities for future expansion had been foreseen.

49. In the light of these assurances and of the information received through the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee decided by 28 votes to none, with 5 abstentions, to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the resolution appended to this report as resolution V.

Meetings of the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, and their Commissions and Committees

50. In his foreword to the budget estimates for the financial year 1970 (A/903) the Secretary-General had made the following observation:

.....the rising cost of translation and publication of the official records in all the organs is offset only on the assumption that all organs will heed the recommendations of the third session of the General Assembly that the number of formal meetings be held to a minimum, and that such meetings be held at the headquarters of each organ. The Secretariat cannot be held responsible for economy and fullest administrative efficiency if the General Assembly appropriates moneys for rotating meeting places in the face of its own recommendations."

51. The question of the venue of meetings of the organs of the United Nations and their subsidiary bodies was extensively discussed by the Fifth Committee at its 196th, 209th, 210th and 230th meetings in connexion with the budget estimates for Sections 3, 3b, and 4, particularly in relation with the eleventh session of the Economic and Social Council, the sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, the fourth session of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press, the third session of the Economic Commission for Latin America, and the sixth session of the Trusteeship Council, which the Councils had decided would meet at Geneva or Montevideo. In its consideration of the matter the Committee had before it reports by the Secretary-General concerning the financial implications of the holding of these sessions away from the headquarters of the bodies concerned (A/C.5/318 and 318 Corr.1, and A/C.5/319) and the Eighth and Ninth reports of 1949 of the Advisory Committee (A/1040, A/1043). In commenting upon the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General, for which it recommended reductions on certain items, the Advisory Committee recalled that it had, on more than one occasion, emphasized the fact that the holding of sessions of organs of the United Nations or the specialized agencies away from Headquarters led in ordinary circumstances to considerable additional expenditure.

52. The question of the competence of the Fifth Committee as regards decisions taken by other bodies was frequently referred to. It was pointed out to the Committee that a similar discussion had taken place during the first part of the third session of the General Assembly, when the principle involved had been settled. The Committee recognized that it was not within its competence to reverse decisions taken by other bodies, that being the function of the General Assembly itself. But it had the right, on budgetary and administrative grounds, to refuse or reduce credits asked for the implementation of such decisions and could make recommendations to the General Assembly accordingly.

53. The President of the Trusteeship Council and, (the President of the Economic and Social Council being unavoidably prevented from addressing the Committee,) the representative of the Secretary-General, stated the reasons for which the Councils had decided to hold a session in Geneva. It was explained to the Committee that these decisions had been based on reasons of a political, educational, economic and practical character. With respect to the Trusteeship Council it was pointed out in particular that it was the only principal organ of the United Nations which had not yet had the benefit of the valuable publicity resulting from a session held outside Headquarters.

Arguments brought forward in the course of the discussion which was held on the basis that the main emphasis of interventions would be on budgetary and administrative considerations, not precluding, however, other relevant aspects, may be summarized as follows. Those representatives who supported the request for additional credits resulting from the decisions of the Councils emphasized the desirability of a reasonable decentralization of sessions as a means of better acquainting the world with the purposes and activities of the United Nations and as a defence against the criticism that concentration of meetings in any one place was politically objectionable; the main organs of the United Nations had held only a few sessions away from Headquarters; it was essential that the fullest use be made both of the staff and of the building of the United Nations in Geneva where, on account of the facilities available, of the central location and the climatic conditions, especially in the summer months, it was possible to accomplish a heavier workload in the same period as compared with New York; the additional expenditure involved was readily acceptable in view of the importance to the functioning of, and publicity for, the organs concerned resulting from occasional meetings outside their headquarters; and the fact that the necessity of sending special delegations to headquarters for all sessions was a considerable financial burden on many governments.

54. Representatives opposing the request for supplementary credits stressed the following points: at a time of financial stringency for most countries expenses should be confined to essential purposes only; facilities at headquarters were entirely sufficient and the work could be accomplished just as well at Lake Success as elsewhere: reasons for holding meetings away from headquarters should be so substantial that they outweighed the financial, administrative and other disadvantages to Governments and the serious dislocation of the Secretariat resulting from decentralization of activities; the usefulness of having permanent delegations at Headquarters would be greatly impaired if sessions which that staff had to attend were held elsewhere; and that the documents, records and final reports of Council sessions away from Headquarters

/often reached

often reached delegations so late that there remained little time to study them adequately before the session of the General Assembly.

55. It was in the light of this exchange of views that the Fifth Committee took the following decisions:

At its 209th meeting the Committee approved by 23 votes to 19, with 3 abstentions a proposal formulated by the Chairman, that, from an administrative and budgetary point of view, the Trusteeship Council should hold its sixth session at Geneva. The discussion on the estimate involved is included in paragraph 79 below. At the 210th meeting the supplementary estimate of \$93,360 relating to the eleventh session of the Economic and Social Council at Geneva, was rejected by 27 votes to 17, with one abstention. A supplementary estimate in the amount of \$6,610, originally submitted at a figure of \$8,010 but reduced after the decision taken with respect to simultaneous interpretation equipment for use in Geneva, relating to the sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva was rejected by 20 votes to 15. Supplementary estimates of \$30,110 and \$3,540 respectively, for the fourth session of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press and the third session of the Economic Commission for Latin America in Montevideo, were adopted. With respect to these two estimates miscellaneous income to a total amount of \$33,650 would accrue since the total of the supplementary items involved represented contributions offered by the government of Uruguay to cover additional costs of holding these sessions in Montevideo.

56. At the 196th meeting the representative of Colombia had announced that he would submit a proposal recommending to the Economic and Social Council that the sessions of that Council and its Commissions should not be held in different parts of the world. At its 230th meeting the Committee considered the draft resolution (A/C.5/L.17) proposed by the delegation of Colombia and reading as follows:

"The General Assembly

Considering that, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the three Councils, the stabilization of an annual budget for the United Nations planned for the maximum of economy, is the constant concern of Members.

Recommends the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council to arrange that their own meetings and those of their subsidiary organs or commissions should, as far as possible, be held at the permanent seat of the United Nations."

57. Several members of the Committee considered that a resolution in these terms would serve no useful purpose and that, if accepted, it might /affect the

affect the international character of the Organization since decisions as to the venue of the principal organs must take account of political as well as financial considerations. Some delegations held the view that the proposal was in part contrary to Articles 28, paragraph 3, 72 and 90 of the Charter. On the other hand, there was considerable recognition that although the text should be redrafted, the basic idea behind this proposal was sound in that it intended primarily to lay down, as a guiding principle, the necessity of exercising strict economy in the use of United Nations resources and of avoiding any unnecessary dislocation of the work of the Organization, objectives with which there was general agreement. It was also recalled that the same idea had often been expressed by the Advisory Committee, particularly in its fifth report of 1948, annexed to resolution 210 (III) of the General Assembly. Furthermore, the proposal did not violate the Charter since it was a mere recommendation.

58. The representative of Colombia did not press for a vote on his resolution on the understanding that appropriate reference would be made to his proposal in the report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

59. When, at its 232nd, meeting, the Committee before its examination in second reading of the estimates relating to the Economic and Social Council, the representative of France proposed the insertion in the report of the Fifth Committee of a recommendation that, should the Council, at its tenth session, after paying due regard to the need for effecting as much saving as possible, decide to confirm the decision it had taken with regard to the location of its eleventh session and of the sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, the Secretary-General should be authorized, with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee, either to make the necessary transfer between sections of the budget, or, within reasonable limits, to draw upon the Working Capital Fund for the purpose of enabling such meetings to be held in accordance with the desires of the Council. This proposal was rejected by 20 votes to 19, with 2 abstentions.

### III

#### Section 1. (The General Assembly, Commissions and Committees)

60. The Committee considered Section 1 at its 195th, 196th, 208th and 222nd meetings. In its report (A/934), the Advisory Committee had indicated items on which it believed reductions were possible; it had recommended that the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General for this Section be reduced by an aggregate amount of \$168,490, thus bringing the total to \$1,251,780, which figure had been accepted by the Secretary-General. There was some discussion at the 195th and 196th meetings on a number of items, including local transportation, tolls, less on cafeteria operation, contractual printing, and proposals for further reductions in different chapters of this Section were submitted by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The proposal to reduce the item of temporary assistance by a further \$35,000 was rejected by 21 votes to 8, with 13 abstentions. The reduction of \$10,000 proposed with regard to the item of overtime and night differential was equally rejected, by 17 votes to 11, with 10 abstentions. The proposal to reduce the estimate for the Committee on Contributions by \$5,000 was not adopted, having obtained 5 votes in favour, 26 against, with 2 abstentions. The Committee did consider, however, that a reduction of \$14,640 in the estimate for local transportation was possible, on the assumption that the price level of rental of cars, which was at present \$20 a day, would be maintained. It was the opinion of the Committee that the United Nations, since it provided cars for delegations, should pay toll charges if the passengers wished to follow a different route from that over the "toll-free" bridges, which was normally followed by United Nations cars.

Apart from Chapter IV, relating to the International Law Commission, the estimates for other chapters in the Section were accepted as recommended by the Advisory Committee.

61. The Committee postponed its consideration of the estimates for the International Law Commission and dealt with this matter at its 208th and 222nd meetings. The President of the General Assembly had transmitted to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, in a letter dated 19 October 1949 (A/C.5/320), the text of a resolution adopted by the Sixth Committee at its 168th meeting. Approving the point of view of the International Law Commission, expressed in paragraph 42 of its report (A/925), regarding the emoluments of the Commission's Members and Rapporteurs, the Sixth Committee requested the Fifth Committee to study these observations,

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bearing in mind the importance of the work of the Commission, the high qualifications of its members and the manner of their election and to address its recommendations to the Sixth Committee with a view to its consideration of the amendment of Article 13 of the Statute of the International Law Commission. At its 298th meeting the Fifth Committee had before it a note on the question by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/325) and the eleventh report of 1949 of the Advisory Committee (A/1051).

62. The Secretary-General pointed out, that in view of the nature of their duties, namely the performance of research and drafting work between sessions of the Commission, payment to the Rapporteurs might be made on a fixed fee basis as a Research Grant, the amount of the fee to be determined by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the International Law Commission. As to the remuneration of members of the Commission the Secretary-General indicated two alternatives. The first of these would be to increase daily payments, thus establishing an exception for this Commission as compared with such other groups as expert commissions of the Economic and Social Council. The Secretary-General would hesitate, however, to take such action because it might create a precedent for other commissions. The other alternative would be to compare, as suggested by the Chairman of the International Law Commission in his statement to the Sixth Committee, the members of the Commission, for purposes of remuneration and subsistence, to ad hoc judges of the International Court. Under this system additional credits of the order of \$26,500 would be necessary. A daily fee of \$30 plus a subsistence allowance of \$20 for each member of the Commission, and an average fee of \$2,000 for each Rapporteur would bring the total amount for emoluments and subsistence to \$59,500, as compared with the amount of \$22,500 for subsistence originally recommended by the Advisory Committee under Chapter IV.

63. The Advisory Committee observed in its report (A/1051) that the Statute of the International Law Commission, approved by the General Assembly, contains in article 13 a provision to the effect that members "..... shall receive a per diem allowance at the same rate as the allowance paid to members of the commissions of experts of the Economic and Social Council". The Advisory Committee had given close consideration to the question of comparability with expert commissions or sub-commissions of the Council, but in view of the decision taken in the matter by the General Assembly and the terms under which the item had been referred to it, the Advisory Committee made no recommendation as regards the rate of subsistence allowance fixed by the Secretary-General at his  
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discretion, at \$20 a day. The Advisory Committee, having received evidence from the Chairman of the International Law Commission who explained that it was necessary that both the Chairman and the five Rapporteurs appointed under article 16 of the Statute should devote considerable periods of time between the sessions of the Commission to legal research and drafting, recommended in the light of all the circumstances that recommended honoraria, not exceeding \$1,500 in any one case, be paid during 1950 to the Chairman and each of the five Rapporteurs of the Commission, the allocation to be determined between the Chairman of the Commission and the Secretary-General.

64. The Chairman of the International Law Commission addressing the Fifth Committee at its 208th meeting drew the attention of the Committee to paragraph 42 of the Commission's report in which the opinion was expressed that it would be in the interest of the work of the Commission, in order to enable the time of its members to be enlisted in that work, that methods should be explored by which service in the Commission might be made less onerous financially. He then commented upon the question of comparison between the International Law Commission and other commissions, and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General's proposal for a fixed fee.

The Chairman of the Advisory Committee explained the position of his Committee as regards the question of honoraria for Rapporteurs and payments to Members. In connexion with the latter, the Advisory Committee had felt bound by article 13 of the Statute; it was to be noted that neither the Advisory Committee nor the Fifth Committee had been apprised of the terms of the Statute before it was adopted by the General Assembly. If the usual channels had been followed the position might have been more satisfactory. The question of the adequacy of subsistence allowances to subsidiary bodies was a matter for the Secretary-General to decide; that question should be thoroughly reviewed in its entirety by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Advisory Committee. The Fifth Committee should be wary of attempting to draw up a list of priorities for the commissions of the United Nations. The Fifth Committee considered the different aspects of the problem before it. Any decision to increase the subsistence allowance of the Members of the International Law Commission or to grant them other emoluments, would, it was felt, have an effect on the basis of the arrangement made for other expert commissions. It was pointed out that article 13 contained nothing to justify a judgment on the respective merits of the various commissions as it referred presumably to the system of subsistence allowances and travel costs. That was, indeed, a matter for the decision of the Secretary-General who would take into account the material conditions under which the different commissions had to work. There was a general feeling /that more information

that more information was needed to enable the Committee to arrive at a conclusion that would be satisfactory to the Members of the Commission, without prejudicing the general principles involved in the matter. The Committee then decided by 21 votes to 6, with 12 abstentions, to adopt a proposal presented by the representative of Canada. Accordingly, the Secretary-General was requested to submit, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, at the earliest possible date a report on the nature of the International Law Commission, its work, the basis on which its members were appointed, and an indication of the type of appointments which its members held in their own countries, information concerning any special activities of its Rapporteurs and any factors which would differentiate it from other commissions of the United Nations.

65. This further report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/347), prepared after consultation with the Advisory Committee, was considered by the Committee at its 222nd meeting. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that his Committee approved the Secretary-General's conclusions. These conclusions were as follows:

- (a) The question whether exceptions should be made in the amount of the subsistence allowances paid to the members of expert bodies should be answered in the negative;
- (b) The Question whether fees of some nature should be paid to the members of the International Law Commission, during the meetings of the Commission, because of any special characteristics of that Commission or its members as compared with other Commissions for which subsistence allowances are paid should also be answered in the negative.
- (c) The question whether special emoluments should be paid to any members of the Commission who, at the request of the Commission, undertake special studies between meetings of the Commission should be answered in the affirmative.

In connexion with point C, the Secretary-General pointed out that it was an accepted practice of the United Nations to pay fees for special research projects in specific technical fields. The present case was unique in United Nations experience inasmuch as the usual practice was to utilize the services of the Secretariat or, where that was not possible, to have technical studies prepared by outside experts appointed by the Secretary-General. Since however, special Rapporteurs are expressly provided for in the Statute of the International Law Commission it would not be inappropriate to pay an honorarium to them for the special studies which they undertake at the request of the Commission, between meetings of the Commission.

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With regard to the question of amounts of subsistence paid for all expert commissions, the Secretary-General stated that he was ready to undertake the comprehensive study suggested by the Advisory Committee in its report (A/1051). In reply to the question whether the Advisory Committee, in agreeing to conclusion (c) had considered the particular case of the International Law Commission or of the various commissions as a whole, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee made it clear that his Committee had taken a decision on a particular case and had not wished to prejudice any solution which might be adopted in the future.

The conclusions of the Secretary-General contained in paragraphs 18, 19 and 20 of his report (A/C.5/347) were adopted unanimously.

66. During the further consideration of the total budget of the International Law Commission, remarks were made with respect to the provision for consultants. Some members felt that in the case of a Commission composed of eminent jurists there seemed hardly to be any need for consultants. It should, moreover, be considered excessive to appropriate funds for consultants for the Department of Legal Affairs as well as for the International Law Commission. A proposal of the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to delete the amount of \$4,000 for salaries and travel of consultants for the International Law Commission was adopted by 23 votes to 17, with 4 abstentions. The estimate for this Chapter thus reduced to \$75,000 was approved by 43 votes to none, with 1 abstention. This amount includes a sum of \$9,000 providing for honoraria for the Chairman and the five Rapporteurs of the Commission.

67. The financial implications of the re-establishment of the Interim Committee had been considered at the 212th meeting and a special report was submitted to the General Assembly (A/1073) setting forth that for Section 1 an amount of \$7,100 on account of contractual printing was involved. The total amount for this Section, including a sum of \$67,850 on account of the decision to transfer reductions on contractual printing to Section 28, would thus be increased to \$1,307,090.

At the 231st meeting, during the second reading of the budget, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated his objection to this item of \$7,100 and proposed that it should not be approved. This proposal was rejected by 34 votes to 5, with 4 abstentions.

68. In connexion with an additional estimate of \$26,370 to provide for financial commitments relating to the Administrative Tribunal established by the General Assembly at its 255th plenary meeting, the Committee had before it the twenty-eighth report of 1949 of the Advisory Committee which had

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recommended that that amount be approved. Some discussion took place at the 231st meeting of the Committee on the basis of calculation of the daily allowance of fifty dollars for members of the Tribunal recommended by the Secretary-General. It was explained to the Committee that this amount included reimbursement of expenses and an honorarium for services rendered. Some members were of the opinion that this allowance was unduly high in view of the status of the Administrative Tribunal as compared to the International Court of Justice on the one hand and the International Law Commission or any other commission of the General Assembly on the other hand. Other members felt that there was an essential difference between members of the International Law Commission and those of the Administrative Tribunal inasmuch as the latter had to act as judges, while the former were members of a Commission of the General Assembly. The representative of Liberia, however, supported by other delegations, considered that as the members of the International Law Commission should be considered as legal experts of the same calibre as members of the Administrative Tribunal, all should be given the same daily allowance, namely, fifty dollars. He therefore proposed that the allowance of members of the International Law Commission be increased to fifty dollars. This proposal would involve an increase of Chapter IV of Section 1 by a sum of \$33,750. After further discussion the Liberian proposal was first put to the vote and rejected by 29 votes to 7, with 4 abstentions. The Committee finally adopted by 17 votes to 14, with 10 abstentions, a proposal of the representative of Poland that the members of the Administrative Tribunal should each receive a per diem of \$20 plus \$10 special allowance. The total estimate relating to the Administrative Tribunal was thus reduced \$19,870. Consequently, the total estimate for Section 1 was established at \$1,326,960. This amount was approved in second reading by 35 votes to 1, with 6 abstentions.

Section 2. (The Security Council, Commissions and Committees)

69. Section 2, relating to the expenses of the Security Council and its Commissions and Committees, and carrying exclusively estimates for contractual printing, was accepted at the 204th meeting of the Committee in the amount of \$357,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee, after discussion of the contractual printing estimates as a whole. This estimate was confirmed by a unanimous vote in second reading at the 232nd meeting.

Section 3. (The Economic and Social Council, Commissions and Committees)

70. The Advisory Committee had recommended that the original estimates submitted by the Secretary-General in the amount of \$331,460 be reduced to \$305,000 and indicated possibilities of still further savings. The estimate of the Advisory Committee had been accepted by the Secretary-General.

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71. The Fifth Committee considered this Section at its 196th, 209th, 210th and 232nd meetings. The discussion related chiefly to the question of location of meetings of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs. This matter has been dealt with in Part II of this report, paragraphs 51 to 55 above.

72. At its 196th meeting the Committee approved without objection Chapters II, IV, VI-XIII, and XV.

In examining the estimates for the Sub-Commissions on Economic Development and on Employment and Economic Stability (chapters X and XI) the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic observed that these sub-commissions dealt to a certain extent with the same questions. He, therefore, suggested that the Advisory Committee and the Economic and Social Council should study the possibility of combining these two organs. It was pointed out to the Committee that the Economic and Employment Commission had already recommended that the two sub-commissions be abolished; it was probable that the Council would take a decision on this question during its next session.

73. The Committee adopted by 39 votes to none, with 5 abstentions, the proposal of the representative of India that Chapter XIV should be deleted in view of the fact that it did not appear necessary for the Fiscal Commission, which so far had only met once every two years, to hold a session in 1950. It was stated that the Secretariat had been given a sufficiently large programme of work arising from that Commission's last session to occupy it throughout the whole of the year.

74. After examination of the estimates for Chapter XVII dealing with the Interim-Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements, the Committee decided by 14 votes to 10, with 20 abstentions, to reject an Australian proposal to provide for credits sufficient to enable that Committee to hold two sessions during 1950 if necessary.

75. A sum of \$325,390 was approved by the Committee at its 210th meeting as the total estimate for this Section. The estimate includes an amount of \$15,460 on account of the transfer of the reductions on contractual printing to Section 28, and a sum of \$30,110 representing the extra costs for holding the 1950 session of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press in Montevideo. This sum is, however, offset by an equal amount under Miscellaneous Income since these costs will be borne by the Government of Uruguay.

At its 232nd meeting, the Committee approved in second reading the amount of \$325,390 for Section 3 by 41 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

Section 3a:      (Permanent Central Opium Board and Narcotic  
Drugs Supervisory Body)

76. The estimates, in the amount of \$39,900, for the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body as recommended by the Advisory Committee, were approved by the Fifth Committee at its 197th meeting, and confirmed in second reading by a unanimous vote at the 232nd meeting.

Section 3b (Regional Economic Commissions)

77. At its 197th meeting, the Committee discussed the direct expenses for sessions of economic commissions amounting to \$50,020 as recommended by the Advisory Committee. The larger proportion of the expenditure for the Commissions is included in Sections 20, 22 and 23, where provision is made for the secretariats serving the Commissions. In this connexion there arose some discussion as to the competence of the Fifth Committee with respect to the venue of organs of the United Nations. The Committee was reminded of a similar discussion which had taken place at the previous session of the General Assembly when the matter had been settled. The Committee thereupon approved in first reading an amount of \$50,020 for this Section.

At the 210th meeting, this sum was increased by \$3,540 after discussion of the financial implications of the changes effected by the Economic and Social Council in the 1950 Calendar of Meetings which matter is fully dealt with in Part II of this report. The additional items for this Section resulted from the Council's decision to accept the invitation by the Government of Uruguay to hold the 1950 session of the Economic Commission for Latin America in Montevideo. The additional costs involved will be borne by the Government of Uruguay and an amount of \$3,540 has, consequently, been included under Miscellaneous Income. The estimate for Section 3 (b) in the total amount of \$53,560 was unanimously approved in second reading at the Committee's 232nd meeting.

Section 4 (The Trusteeship Council, Commissions and Committees)

78. At its 197th meeting, the Committee considered the estimates for Section 4. Decisions of the Trusteeship Council taken at its Fifth Session had necessitated the preparation of supplementary estimates by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/317, 318 and 318/Corr.1), which were not reflected in the recommendation, for a total estimate of \$148,780 for this Section, made by the Advisory Committee in its Second report of 1949, and accepted by the Secretary-General. Having heard a statement from the President of the Trusteeship Council on the projected 1950 Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific, the Committee decided to postpone any decision on the estimates for Section 4 until the Advisory Committee had reported on the financial implications of the Council's recent decisions which concerned not only the matter of the Visiting Mission but also of the place of meeting of its Sixth Session.

79. At its 209th meeting, the Committee had before it the Eighth report of the Advisory Committee (A/1040) relating to both matters.

As set out in paragraph 55 of this report, a decision on principle was taken at that meeting with respect to the place where the Trusteeship Council would hold its sixth session. The estimates prepared by the Secretary-General to provide for the additional costs of a meeting in Geneva had been reduced by the Advisory Committee which recommended a supplementary estimate of \$36,000 for this purpose, which was accepted by the Secretary-General. The representative of Brazil, being of the opinion that the budget for Section 20, Geneva Office, already included an amount of \$10,000 related to temporary assistance for a session of the Council in Geneva, proposed that instead of \$36,000 only \$26,000 should be added to the original estimate for the session. This proposal was carried by 20 votes to 14, with 4 abstentions. In consequence a total of \$74,370 was approved for Chapter I of Section 4. At its 232nd meeting the Committee heard an explanation from the representative of the Secretary-General with respect to this amount of \$10,000 which was actually needed to service the Council in Geneva. Otherwise an application might have to be made for an advance from the Working Capital Fund. There ensued a discussion as to whether or not the restoration of this sum was warranted. The representative of Brazil proposed that the appropriation of \$10,000 be restored; this proposal was adopted by 19 votes to 13, with 10 abstentions. The Committee rejected by 23 votes to 14, with 2 abstentions a proposal from the delegation of New Zealand to delete the appropriations required for holding the session of the Trusteeship Council in Geneva.

80. With respect to the 1950 Visiting Mission, the Advisory Committee recommended, in view of the extensive travelling involved in this Mission, the approval of the Secretary-General's estimate of \$78,880, which represented an increase by \$28,880 of the amount of \$50,000 originally recommended by the Advisory Committee. The Fifth Committee approved the sum of \$78,880 unanimously. It also approved the Secretary-General's revised estimate of \$12,500, instead of \$50,410, for 1950 in respect of the 1949 Visiting Mission which, beginning in October instead of December 1949, would need a smaller appropriation in 1950 than was originally anticipated, the greater part of expenditure falling on the 1949 budget.

81. As a result of the above decisions and of the transfer of the reductions on Contractual Printing to Section 28 which necessitated an amount of \$2,010 to be added to Section 4, the total estimate for the Section amounted to \$175,750. This sum was approved in second reading, at the 232nd meeting, by a vote of 37 in favour, 2 against, with one abstention.



Section 5 (Special Conferences)

82. In connexion with this Section, the Committee, at its 197th meeting, accepted the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for a provision of \$16,600.

This estimate was subsequently increased to an amount of \$53,600 related to the implementation of resolutions 238 (IX), 243 (IX) and 261 (IX) of the Economic and Social Council. The Secretary-General had submitted estimates in a total amount of \$57,000, of which sum \$15,000 would fall under Section 11, with a view to providing for meetings of experts on the problem of slavery and of tropical housing and town planning, and for the establishment of a cartographic office (A/C.5/339). The Advisory Committee, in its nineteenth report of 1949 (A/1071) was of the opinion that these projects could be carried out for a total amount of \$50,000, of which \$13,000 would fall under Section 11. The Secretary-General accepted this recommendation.

83. The estimates were discussed at the Committee's 223rd meeting. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the items relating to the meeting of experts on tropical housing and town planning and to the cartographic office be not approved. It was understood by the Committee that the adoption of these proposals would signify the Committee's intention that the related activities be postponed until the following year. On being put to the vote, the estimate for the meeting of experts on slavery, in the amount of \$17,000, as recommended by the Advisory Committee, was approved by 37 votes to none, with 2 abstentions. The proposal to delete the item of \$20,000 in respect of the meeting of experts on tropical housing and town planning was rejected by 20 votes to 11, with 6 abstentions. The proposal for the deletion of the item of \$13,000 for the establishment of a cartographic office, however, was adopted by 22 votes to 12, with 5 abstentions. At the 232nd meeting, when Section 11 was being discussed, the matter of the interpretation of this decision was raised. It was decided that the Secretary-General would take into account the statements made by the representatives who had taken part in that discussion.

The total amount for Section 5, having thus been established at \$53,600, was unanimously approved in second reading at the 232nd meeting.

Section 6. (Investigations and Inquiries)

84. At its 235th meeting, the Committee confirmed, by 33 votes to 6, with 3 abstentions, the estimates for Section 6, Investigations and Inquiries, in a total amount of \$3,417,700.

This total comprised \$320,300 for the United Nations Commission on Korea (A/1027); \$780,200 for the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans (A/1092 - the sum of \$850,000 originally approved was reduced by \$69,800 when the estimates for the Field Service were adopted at the 226th meeting); \$50,000 for the Repatriation of Greek Children (A/1092); \$452,000 for the United Nations Commissioner and Council for Libya, the Advisory Council for Italian Somaliland and the United Nations Commission for Eritrea (A/1109). All the above estimates were the subject of special reports to the General Assembly.

85. The Committee at its 222nd and 223rd meetings, considered the estimates relating to the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan. The Advisory Committee, in its eighteenth report of 1949 (A/1970) had recommended approval of the estimates as submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/338). It had pointed out that its observations were subject to any decision of policy which the Security Council might take upon the recommendation of the Commission when the report of the Commission would have been submitted to the Council, or on other grounds. The Advisory Committee also mentioned the question of the method of financing the participation of the United Nations in the expenses of the plebiscite, if held. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was of the opinion that since the decisions of the Security Council regarding the activities in 1950 of the Commission were not yet known, it would be better to postpone the matter. In any case it was impossible to estimate amount required with any degree of accuracy. He, therefore, proposed that the appropriation for 1950 be maintained at its 1949 level of \$325,000, and that the Secretary-General would be authorized to supplement that sum if it proved inadequate, by withdrawal from the Working Capital Fund. Other members, however, held the view that this proposal did not take into account the actual expenditure in 1949. They felt that the estimate recommended was the most realistic figure that could be given in the circumstances, and did not favour the use of the Working Capital Fund as had been suggested. On being put to a vote, the proposal of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was rejected by 34 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.

The Committee then adopted by 34 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the estimates for the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan, excluding the expenses of the Plebiscite Administration, be approved in the amount of \$666,000.

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The Advisory Committee's recommendation for an additional appropriation of \$49,200 to cover the expenses of the administration of the Plebiscite for Jammu and Kashmir was adopted by 32 votes to 4, with 5 abstentions.

86. At its 229th meeting, the Committee considered the budget estimates for the United Nations Commission for Indonesia. The Advisory Committee had recommended in its thirtieth report of 1949 (A/1158) that the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/356) be reduced from \$469,400 to \$400,000. The Secretary-General had accepted that reduction. It was pointed out in the report that the increase in the estimates by comparison with the 1949 appropriation of \$215,114 was largely due to the inclusion of a sum of \$253,700 for travel and subsistence of military observers in accordance with a resolution adopted by the Security Council on 5 October 1949.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, recalling that his delegation had objected in the Security Council to the payment by the United Nations of the expenses of alternate representatives on the Commission, was of the opinion that the Committee should make no appropriation for the implementation in that respect of the Security Council resolution of 27 September 1949. Furthermore, in view of the situation in Indonesia, there appeared to be no necessity to appropriate funds for military observers. In view also of the fact that the decisions of the Security Council regarding the activities of the Commission in 1950 were not yet known, he proposed that the sum appropriated for 1949 and no more, should be approved for the Commission during 1950. The Working Capital Fund could provide any supplementary sums that might be required. Other delegations, however, pointing to paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 231 (III) and the decision of the Security Council, were of the opinion that the Fifth Committee was not entitled to refuse the funds for travelling and subsistence expenses for alternates. The view was expressed that pending a decision from the Security Council,

any estimate for the Commission as a whole could only be a guess; the provisional estimate recommended by the Advisory Committee was reasonable and should be approved. The Committee rejected by 25 votes to 6, with 2 abstentions, the proposal of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It then approved by 29 votes to 3, with 1 abstention, the provisional appropriation of \$400,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee.

86(a) At its 235th meeting, the Committee considered the budget estimates for the Palestine Conciliation Commission and the supervision of the armistice agreements. The Advisory Committee had recommended in its thirty-fourth report of 1949 (A/1226) that the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/367) be reduced from \$759,000 to \$700,000. The Secretary-General had accepted that reduction. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, considering that the activities of this Commission should be curtailed, proposed a reduction in the estimates to \$500,000. The proposal was rejected by 20 votes to 6, with 15 abstentions. The Committee then approved by 31 votes to 6, with 5 abstentions, the appropriation of \$700,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee.

Section 6a. (United Nations Field Service)

87. At its 232nd meeting, the Committee confirmed by 35 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, the estimate for the United Nations Field Service, established in a new section 6a, at a sum of \$337,000. This estimate has been the subject of a special report to the General Assembly (A/1122).

Section 7.      (Executive Office of the Secretary-General)

88. At its 197th meeting, the Committee approved the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee for the Executive Office of the Secretary-General in the amount of \$496,000. This sum was increased by \$16,000 for salaries and wages after the Committee, at its 212th meeting, had reviewed the financial implications of the re-establishment of the Interim Committee of the General Assembly. At the 232nd meeting, during the second reading of the budget estimates, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, recalling the objection of his delegation to the re-establishment of the Interim Committee, proposed the deletion of this amount of \$16,000. This proposal was rejected by 5 votes in favour, 34 against, with 3 abstentions. The Committee then approved by 35 votes to none, with 6 abstentions, estimates in a total amount of \$512,000 for Section 7.

Section 7a      (Library)

89. At its 197th meeting, the Committee approved the estimates for the Library as recommended by the Advisory Committee in the amount of \$449,500. The Committee noted with satisfaction from the budget document (A/903) and from the special report on library policy and the organization of library services (A/C.5/298) submitted by the Secretary-General in pursuance of the request of the Fifth Committee at its 136th meeting, that, as a result of further study of the question of the proper location of the Library, the Secretary-General had concluded that the Library should be attached to his Executive Office as an independent service, obtaining general policy directives as necessary from that Office. During the second reading of the budget estimates at the 232nd meeting, the Committee approved unanimously the estimates for Section 7 (a) in the above amount.

Section 8.      (Department of Security Council Affairs)

At its 197th meeting, the Committee accepted the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that a sum of \$822,200 be provided for the Department of Security Council Affairs.

This sum was further increased by \$19,000 for salaries and wages; after the Committee, at its 212th meeting, had reviewed the financial implications of the re-establishment of the Interim Committee of the General Assembly.

At the 232nd meeting, during the second reading of the budget estimates, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the reason mentioned under Section 7, proposed the reduction of the total sum previously approved by this amount of \$19,000. The proposal was rejected by 5 votes in favour, 34 against, with 1 abstention, and the Committee then approved by 36 votes to none, with 5 abstentions, estimates in a total amount of \$841,200 for the Department of Security Council Affairs.

/Section 9

Section 9. (Military Staff Committee Secretariat)

91. The Committee considered the estimates for Section 9, at its 197th and 199th meetings, and decided at the latter meeting to accept on first reading the estimate of \$197,800, recommended by the Advisory Committee, on the understanding that prior to the second reading the Secretary-General would, as proposed by the representative of South Africa, supply further information on the possibility of the integration of the Military Staff Committee Secretariat into other Departments, or alternatively, of effecting considerable reduction in these estimates in view of the decreasing workload of the Military Staff Committee Secretariat.

92. At its 232nd meeting, the Committee considered a report from the Secretary-General (A/C.5/337), publishing an exchange of correspondence with the Chairman of the Military Staff Committee. The communication from the Military Staff Committee stated that, in view of the existing provisions of the Draft Statute, and more particularly of rule 8 of the Draft Rules of Procedure of the Military Staff Committee, provisionally approved by the Security Council on 16 February 1946, and taking into account the security requirements for the work of the Committee in the execution of the tasks entrusted to it by the Security Council in accordance with Article 47 of the Charter, the Military Staff Committee could not agree to the integration of the staff of its Secretariat with other organs of the Secretariat of the United Nations. The communication further stated that since the Military Staff Committee was a subordinate organ of the Security Council (Article 47 of the Charter), it was unable itself to determine the workload of its Secretariat.

The Fifth Committee was informed both of the extent of the 1949 activities of this Secretariat pertaining directly to the specific functions of the Military Staff Committee, and of the degree to which it had co-operated in assisting other departments during 1949. In the latter connexion, an undertaking had already been given that whenever not engaged in its special activities, members of this Secretariat would at all times be at the disposal of other departments to assure their full employment. It was also pointed out to the Committee that it had not been thought possible to make any reduction in this budget, although the necessity for economy was fully realized.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics considered that the Fifth Committee should take no decision on the estimates of this Section without knowledge of the views of the Security Council, of which the Military Staff Committee was an organ. Several representatives

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were of opinion that the Committee should act with caution as the security factor in the work of this staff was very important and that a reduction in the number of specialized technical staff below the minimum requirements, if such staff was not readily replaceable, was ill-advised.

The representative of the Union of South Africa, although fully aware of the special difficulties confronting the Military Staff Committee, considered that a question of principle was involved. The Fifth Committee could not authorize a certain number of staff members for a unit of the Secretariat, and at the same time stipulate that those staff members might be employed elsewhere. He was, however, willing to modify his proposal for specific reductions in staff members in the sense as suggested by the representative of Belgium. He then proposed that the estimate for Section 9 be reduced by \$53,000. This reduction was accepted by the Fifth Committee by 19 votes to 10, with 8 abstentions.

The total estimate of \$144,800 for Section 9 was approved at the second reading by 32 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Section 10. (Department of Economic Affairs)

93. The Committee considered the estimates for the Department of Economic Affairs at its 197th, 198th and 199th meetings.

The original estimates of the Secretary-General included a sum of \$2,519,400 for this Section. The Advisory Committee, while recognizing that responsibility for the constant growth of the budget for this Department lay mainly with the Member States which propose, or participate in the adoption of, new programmes in the Economic and Social Council and its commissions, had reached the conclusion that, as new tasks were offset to a large extent by the completion of projects assigned in earlier years, there was no justification for 30 of the new posts requested by the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee indicated methods by which, and areas wherein, savings could be achieved, and recommended that the estimate for the Department be approved in the amount of \$2,296,400, a reduction of \$223,000.

The Secretary-General had considered the items concerned and had decided he could accept some of the reductions; he was unable, however, to accept a reduction of \$142,000 for established posts and of \$14,000 for consultants, the difference thus being reduced to a total of \$156,000.

In support of his revised estimates, amounting to \$2,452,400, the Secretary-General submitted a special memorandum (A/C.5/307).

94. Some members of the Fifth Committee considered that in view of the difference of opinion between the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General, which placed the Committee in a difficult position, the question of difference should be referred back to the Advisory Committee for further consideration and discussion between it and the Secretary-General. However, in the light of the documentation submitted and the oral statements made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and the Assistant Secretary-General, the Committee agreed that the facts were available and sufficiently clear for a decision to be reached without recourse to such a procedure. It was pointed out to the Committee that the initial estimates reviewed by the Advisory Committee had been prepared on the basis of work programmes as foreseen in the spring of 1949. Since then, the Economic and Social Council had assigned new duties to the Department. Several delegations took the view that at least part of these assignments was counterbalanced by tasks completed, and that the Advisory Committee's estimates should be considered

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sufficient. Moreover, should it appear in the course of the year that the proposed reductions were excessive, then the Secretary-General had many safeguards to protect the Department financially, either through transfer of credits within the section, or between sections of the budget with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee, or similarly through recourse to the Working Capital Fund for specific and authorized purposes. The differences in the sums involved (about 6 per cent of the total requested for the Department) represented the margin of savings on appropriations which experience had shown could normally be achieved. In general, however, the Committee applied the principle that the budget should provide sufficient credits to enable the Department adequately to perform its duties, many of which, particularly in connexion with the activities of the division of Economic Stability and Development and of the Statistical Office, were of a continuing nature.

95. In the course of the discussion, the representative of Australia submitted a proposal to increase the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee by \$103,600 to a total of \$2,400,000. Several members supported this compromise figures, indicating, however, that within that amount, the work developing from decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its ninth Session, as now foreseen, should be carried out...

The Secretary-General was also asked for an assurance that the comments of the Advisory Committee in its report should be noted, and applied wherever possible. The Secretary-General considered the Australian proposal and eventually informed the Committee that he could accept the amount of \$2,400,000 on the understanding that the precise application of the consequent cuts should be his responsibility. It would be necessary to retard certain parts of the programme of the Department and the required savings would be achieved by delay in recruitment of staff. Only in the event of any extraordinary and unforeseen expenditure would any demand be made on the Working Capital Fund. Finally, the Committee was assured that careful consideration would be given to the observations and suggestions made by the Advisory Committee, although the Secretary-General was unable to agree with some of them and to the remarks made in the course of the discussion in the Fifth Committee.

One of the members of the Committee pointed out that the innovation of giving the Secretary-General the power to apply reductions as he saw fit was a policy which made detailed consideration of the budget estimates by the Fifth Committee meaningless. Several members stated that they were opposed to any compromise; this was an arbitrary solution and would, they felt, impair the prestige of the Fifth Committee. The Committee should accept the recommendation of the Advisory Committee which had studied the subject thoroughly and had made well-considered suggestions. Other delegations, however, welcomed the proposal and its acceptance by the Secretary-General. On being put to vote, the Australian proposal was adopted by 28 votes to 10, with 6 abstentions.

Accordingly, the Committee approved estimates for Section 10 in the amount of \$2,400,000, on the understanding that it would leave to the Secretary-General the precise application of the resulting cut in his revised estimates so that the views which had emerged during the debate in the Committee would be given practical effect to the fullest extent possible consistent with the fulfillment of the Department's work programme for 1950.

The estimates for Section 10, which had been subsequently increased by \$50,000 to a total of \$2,450,000 following the Committee's decision relating to the transfer of reductions proposed on Contractual printing, were unanimously approved in second reading at the 232nd meeting.

#### Section 11. (Department of Social Affairs)

96. The estimates for the Department of Social Affairs were considered at the 199th meeting. The original estimates of the Secretary-General included a sum of \$1,700,000 for this Section. The Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of \$165,500, making a total of \$1,534,500.

It had seemed to the Advisory Committee that many of the projects begun in 1946 and 1947 had outlived their value and urgency in relation to more important tasks in the social field. The observations it had made with respect to the work-load of the Department of Economic Affairs applied with equal force to this Department. This pointed to the desirability of a review by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate policy organs, before the preparation of the 1951 estimates. The Advisory Committee further observed that work in the social field is so broad that it can in fact be limited only by financial considerations. The Advisory Committee had expressed the confident hope that if the staff of the Department were increased by the nine new posts the Committee recommended for approval, it should be

possible to cope with important new work if full attention was given to priorities of work and proper organization of the Department, and it indicated several possibilities for the effectuation of economies.

The Secretary-General had considered the items concerned; having concluded that he could not agree with all the observations of the Advisory Committee and could not accept all the cuts it proposed, he had prepared revised estimates, requesting a restoration of \$117,000 pertaining to Established Posts and Consultants (A/C.5/308).

The total revised estimates amounted to \$1,651,500, thus narrowing the area of disagreement to \$117,000.

97. In the course of the discussion on the 1950 work programme of the Department, some delegations expressed the opinion that the experience of the Secretariat over the last four years should have developed to the extent where any reasonable increase of work, as compared to former years, could be readily absorbed. They did not agree with the contention that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee would adversely affect the work to be done and the staff should, therefore, be kept at the 1949 level. Although recognizing that considerable tasks had been laid upon the Secretary-General and that some work would have to be delayed, those delegations felt that there would be no harm in postponing some of the Department's activities as the most important work in connexion with certain programmes had already been carried out. Moreover, the activity of the Department, though of immense value, must perforce be limited by financial considerations. The Social Commission, at its December session, would establish a priority list for social activities, and those indications could be used as a guide in determining the order of priority of the Department's work. With a streamlined organization, the Department would be able to absorb some more work. They noted the assurance given by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that, if that Committee's recommendations were found in 1950 to interfere with the Secretary-General's responsibilities under the General Assembly's instructions, the Advisory Committee would show itself anxious to come to his assistance. They therefore supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

Other delegations were of the opinion that there should be no slowdown in the Department's activities all of which were of the highest importance. The Secretary-General had declared that he was unable to perform the tasks laid upon him within the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee and they, therefore, felt that the Secretary-General's revised estimate should be accepted. The Fifth Committee should make the necessary appropriation to enable the Department to implement the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and should not pass its responsibility for decisions regarding known and foreseen expenditures to the Advisory Committee.

98. A compromise proposal by the representative of India to accept the Advisory Committee's estimate on the explicit understanding that that Committee would grant additional funds if the Secretary-General were unable to fulfil his commitments within those limits, and a proposal submitted by the representative of Greece to appropriate a total of \$1,600,000 for this Section, did not reach a vote, since the Committee decided by 21 votes to 16, with 3 abstentions, to accept at the first reading the revised estimates of the Secretary-General. The sum recommended by the Advisory Committee was thus increased by \$117,000 to a total of \$1,651,000. It was the understanding of the Committee that with the exception of the specific activities which the Secretary-General had stated he could not carry out within the limits of the budgetary provision, the additional activities devolving from the decisions of the Economic and Social Council taken at its ninth session were adequately covered. This amount was increased to \$1,689,500, as a result of the Committee's decision with respect to the transfer of reductions proposed on contractual printing to Section 28.

99. At its 223rd meeting, the Committee considered an additional item of \$13,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee, after consideration of the estimate submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/339), in connexion with resolution 261 (IX) of the Economic and Social Council, regarding the co-ordination of cartographic services of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and interested scientific organizations (A/1071). The costs related to the establishment of a cartographic service within the Department, as had been stated previously on behalf of the Secretary-General, could not be absorbed within the budget for Section 11 as approved so far. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, being of the opinion that the activity

/should be

should be postponed, proposed the rejection of the requested amount of \$13,000. The proposal was carried by 22 votes to 12, with 5 abstentions, the understanding being that, consequently, these particular activities should be postponed until the following year.

At the 232nd meeting, the representative of Brazil proposed that the decision with respect to the establishment of a cartographic service be so interpreted that the Secretary-General should be authorized to use possible savings in the 1950 budget for this purpose. This proposal was supported by the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom and Chile, but opposed by other representatives who, although they originally voted in favour of the granting of credits for this service, were of the opinion that the proposed procedure was unsound budgetary practice and would amount to the unsettling of the work of the Fifth Committee performed so far. The representative of the United States then elucidated his understanding, which was that if the establishment of the service had no financial implications, the Secretary-General would be authorized to proceed to the establishment of this service. The Committee decided that the opinions voiced should be recorded in the report of the Fifth Committee in order to enable the Secretary-General to take them into consideration.

The Committee then approved unanimously, in second reading, total estimates of \$1,689,500 for Section 11.

Section 12. (Department for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories)

100. At its 206th meeting, the Committee unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that a sum of \$932,000 be provided for the Department for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. This amount was increased to \$935,000 on account of the Committee's decision with respect to the transfer of reductions proposed on contractual printing to Section 28.

The Committee approved at its 232nd meeting, in second reading, by 39 votes to none, with 1 abstention, estimates for this Section in the amount of \$935,000.

Section 13. (Department of Public Information)

101. The Committee considered the estimates for the Department of Public Information at its 200th and 201st meetings. The Advisory Committee had recommended that the estimates originally submitted by the Secretary-General be reduced from \$3,355,000 to \$3,194,000, a total reduction of \$161,000.

The Secretary-General had decided he could accept some of the proposed reductions but wished for restoration of a sum of \$112,000 pertaining to established posts (\$50,000), official travel (\$5,000), and radio services (\$57,000), bringing the total of his revised estimates to the amount of \$3,306,000. In support of his proposal the Secretary-General had submitted a memorandum (A/C.5/309).

102. The Committee discussed the programme and activities of the Department from a double aspect; firstly, in relation to General Assembly resolution 13 (I), and, secondly, from the point of view of the aggregate costs of information activities as compared with the total budget.

The opinion prevailed that resolution 13 (I), (transmitting to the Secretary-General for his information and consideration the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee on Information) was to be considered as a general directive rather than as a firm policy which should be rigidly adhered to. Although several delegations held the view that activities should be maintained, especially for the benefit of those countries where information media were not yet sufficiently developed, they felt that a world public opinion thoroughly informed about the United Nations would help to assure the progress of the Organization. Other delegations, however, although paying tribute to the able manner in which the information program was carried out, were not convinced of the desirability or usefulness of all of the Department's activities. Moreover, they felt that the amount requested for information purposes would constitute a disproportionate part of the total budget especially as this activity, the importance of which was not denied, was not one of the substantial activities of the United Nations. The credits to be granted for this ancillary activity should be commensurate with the means at the disposal of the United Nations, a prerequisite that was the more compelling as most of the Member States were faced with a situation of financial stringency, especially after the recent devaluation. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee which had shown the way for achieving economies without impairment of the decisions taken by the General Assembly at previous sessions, should, therefore, be welcomed, and it had still to be proven that the sum of \$3,194,000 recommended by that Committee was inadequate to cover fully and efficiently the information programme.

/103. On behalf

103. On behalf of the Secretary-General it was explained that he was unable to accept further adjustments in his revised estimates. In the course of the consideration of the 1950 estimates, several delegations agreed with the view expressed by the Advisory Committee as to the doubtful value of the Opinion Survey involving an expenditure of \$36,500 for established posts, and an Australian proposal to suppress this publication was carried by 25 votes to 20, with four abstentions. As a result of this decision, the Secretary-General's revised estimates were reduced to \$3,269,440.

104. Following discussion on the question of radio services, the Committee was of the opinion that nothing should be done to reduce the time allotted for broadcasts in unofficial languages. Although it realized the technical and contractual aspects of the broadcasts in official languages, within the total estimates for radio services, the Committee wished that every effort be made so to conclude contracts for the broadcasting programme for 1950 that the proportion of radio time allotted to unofficial language broadcasts would not be injuriously affected.

105. The differences still existing between the total amount of the Secretary-General's new proposal and the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee represented a sum of \$75,440 including the balance of \$13,440 in the sum requested for restoration of established posts, \$5,000 for official travel, and \$57,000 for radio services of which \$45,250 was related to broadcasts in unofficial languages. The representative of Liberia submitted a proposal to increase the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee by \$55,250 which sum covered the \$45,250 for unofficial language broadcasts, the restoration of which had been previously proposed by the representative of the United States.

The Committee first rejected this proposal of the Secretary-General to increase the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee by \$75,440 to a total of \$3,269,440 by 27 votes to 21, with 5 abstentions.

It then rejected the Liberian proposal for an increase of \$55,250 to a total of \$3,249,250 by 26 votes to 23, with 4 abstentions.

The proposal of the representative of the United States of America to increase the Advisory Committee's recommendation by \$45,250 for the specific purpose of maintaining radio services in unofficial languages, was accepted by 31 votes to 6, with 9 abstentions, and the total estimates for Section 13 were accordingly approved at a sum of \$3,239,250. This amount was increased by \$25,000 to \$3,264,250 following the Committee's decision with respect to the transfer of reductions proposed on contractual printing to Section 28.

106. At the 232nd meeting, the representative of the Philippines proposed that the publication of the Opinion Survey be continued in 1950, implying an increase of this amount by \$36,560. This reversal of the Committee's previous decision was not carried. The Committee then approved in second reading by 30 votes to 1, with 10 abstentions the estimates for the Department of Public Information, in the amount of \$3,264,250.

Section 14. (Department of Legal Affairs)

107. At its 202nd meeting, the Committee approved the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee for the Department of Legal Affairs in the amount of \$527,300.

Remarks were made by members with respect to the grading of the staff of the Department and to the costs of the registration of treaties and the publication of the Treaty Series.

The Committee received the assurance, on behalf of the Secretary-General, that the comments of the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 115 and 116 of its second report of 1949 to the General Assembly (A/934) would be carefully studied in order to ascertain what economies in the budget of the Department might be effected. The Committee noted that, particularly in connexion with paragraph 116, concerning the registration, translation and printing of the Treaty Series, the Secretary-General would submit a detailed report to the General Assembly at its fifth session.

During the second reading of the budget estimates at its 232nd meeting, the Committee approved unanimously estimates in the above amount for the Department of Legal Affairs.

Section 15. (Department of Conference and General Services)

108. The estimates for the Department of Conference and General Services were under consideration at the 202nd and 203rd meetings. The Advisory Committee had recommended that the estimates originally submitted by the Secretary-General in the amount of \$8,928,700 be reduced by \$341,500 to a sum of \$8,587,200. While noting improvements in the organization of the Department, the Advisory Committee was of the opinion that there was still scope for further progress, for instance by improved co-ordination with the Geneva Office in the matter of conference planning. The Secretariat should endeavour to arrange a more even distribution of meetings over the year and the Committee was confident that, in view of the disturbing increase in expenditure, Member States would readily agree to a more rational planning of conferences (from the point of view both of timing and location) as a condition precedent to the economical servicing of conferences. The Committee believed that economies were possible in several divisions and pointed out where in its opinion, reductions should be made.

/The Secretary-General



The Secretary-General after further study of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, had reached the conclusion that he could accept all of the proposed reductions with the exception of that pertaining to established posts for which he requested a restoration of \$310,000 (A/C.5/311).

109. The Fifth Committee discussed the anticipated workload for the Department in 1950 and the related staff requirements. It was recognized that the volume of work to be carried out by the Department, such as for instance the number of meetings to be serviced and of documents to be translated and printed, could to a large extent not be curtailed by the Department. Several delegations pointed out, however, that this Department lent itself better than others to adaptation and the use of initiative. Here was a large field for the application of the principles of economy, efficiency and co-ordination referred to during the general debate. The hope was expressed that careful consideration would be given by the Secretary-General to the comments or questions of basic administration regarding which the report of the Advisory Committee was very pertinent. Some delegations observed that much of the large-scale work that had to be done during the first years of the existence of the United Nations was now at an end, and on the basis of experience gained a stabilized organization and volume of expenditure should be possible. After members stressed the many uncertain factors in assessing the workload of the Department and the necessity of providing for a sufficient margin for "peak-periods", it was stated that as far as the anticipated number of meetings was concerned, there was no basis for any substantial increase in the estimates. There were, however, other important factors in the question of workload and these might have been more clearly set out in the original budget document; it would be useful if in the future more details were given, and also a table of items of fixed expenditures which could not be subject to reduction. As the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had stated, the work of the Department was of direct and immediate interest to all the representatives, all the organs and all the officials of the Secretariat; some members feared that although the difference between the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and the revised estimates of the Secretary-General amounted only to slightly more than 3 per cent, the Secretary-General would experience great difficulty in maintaining satisfactory service through the Department. While some members were therefore of the opinion that his revised estimates should be accepted, or at least an intermediate figure, such as those proposed by the delegation of Canada and of the Philippines, others held

/the view

the view that the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee should be considered sufficient. If in the course of the year this was found not to be the case, there would be several means by which the Secretary-General could cope with such an emergency, such as transfers between Sections, which would make it unnecessary to request excessive contributions from Member States. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee had already stated that that Committee would be willing to approve such transfers, as also any advance from the Working Capital Fund which was justified under the provisions of the General Assembly resolution concerning unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. In this connexion there was a discussion on the right use of the Working Capital Fund. The Committee felt that the appropriation for the Department should itself reflect an adequate provision for the activities it was required to carry out. It was recognized, however, that although the Working Capital Fund should only be made available for unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures clearly not anticipated when the budget estimates were prepared and reviewed, emergencies might arise when the General Assembly was not in session, and the Working Capital Fund existed to meet such contingencies.

110. The Committee proceeded to a vote on the different proposals before it.

The Secretary-General's revised estimates were rejected by 32 votes to 3, with 8 abstentions.

The Committee also rejected a proposal submitted by the delegation of the Philippines to increase the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee by \$180,000. The result of the vote was 15 in favour, 24 against, with 5 abstentions.

A proposal made by the delegation of Canada, however, to increase the estimates of the Advisory Committee by a sum of \$130,000 was carried by 25 votes to 12, with 4 abstentions. A total estimate of \$8,717,200 for the Department of Conference and General Services was accordingly approved.

This amount was subsequently increased by \$4,000 following the Committee's decision to transfer the reductions proposed on contractual printing to Section 28. A further sum of \$10,000 was added to provide for consultants for the preparation of necessary arrangements for the establishment of a United Nations Postal Administration. The Advisory Committee had recommended approval of the Secretary-General's estimate at that figure (A/1155).

/The total

The total estimates for this Section, thus amounting to \$8,731,200 were approved in second reading by the Fifth Committee at its 233rd meeting, by a vote of 32 in favour, 9 against, with 4 abstentions.

Section 16. (Department of Administrative and Financial Services)

111. The Committee, at its 204th meeting, approved the total sum of \$1,720,000 for Section 16 which had been recommended by the Advisory Committee. At the 233rd meeting the Committee approved unanimously this amount in second reading.

Section 17. (Common Staff Costs)

112. Noting at its 204th meeting that certain adjustments in the total amount for Common Staff Costs would follow from its previous decisions, the Committee deferred consideration of this Section.

When the matter was taken up again, at the 211th meeting, the Committee had before it revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/323) which showed a total requirement of \$3,888,000, an increase of \$61,000 above the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee. This increase was the consequence of the partial restoration by the Fifth Committee of some of the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee for Sections 10 to 16. The Committee unanimously approved the increased estimates for Common Staff Costs.

At the 233rd meeting, the Committee unanimously confirmed this decision.

Section 18. (Common Services)

113. At its 204th meeting the Committee reviewed the estimates for Common Services, noting that the Advisory Committee had recommended a provision of \$2,110,300 for this Section. In reply to a question concerning obligations of the United Nations in regard to the Lake Success buildings, at the expiration of ~~the~~ lease, the Committee was informed that the Secretary-General would submit a report on this matter to the General Assembly at its fifth session. Estimates of the above amount were approved in first reading.

The Committee approved unanimously in second reading at its 233rd meeting estimates in the amount of \$2,110,300 for Common Services.

Section 19. (Permanent Equipment)

114. Also at its 204th meeting, the Committee approved the estimates for Permanent Equipment in the sum of \$241,800, recommended by the Advisory Committee.

This decision was confirmed by a unanimous vote at the second reading of the budget estimates, at the 233rd meeting of the Committee.

Section 20. (United Nations Office at Geneva)

115. The Committee considered the estimates for this Section at its 207th and 208th meetings.

The original estimates of the Secretary-General included a sum of \$4,312,000 for the Office at Geneva. The Advisory Committee had recommended various reductions, in an aggregate amount of \$246,550, thus reducing the total estimates to \$4,066,050. It had recognized the difficulty for the Secretary-General to forecast, with any reasonable degree of accuracy, the total number of meetings to be held in the Geneva Office, and it indicated a number of other factors which accentuated this estimating difficulty. The Advisory Committee trusted that the Secretary-General would do all in his power to secure a more even distribution of meetings over the whole year, both at Geneva and in New York. The Advisory Committee furthermore drew the attention to the total direct and indirect costs of the Economic Commission for Europe; it indicated measures which would lead to considerable savings.

The Secretary-General had reviewed his estimates, but had concluded that, although he could accept some of the proposed reductions, he had to ask for restoration of a sum of \$190,550 for specific purposes, as set forth in his memorandum (A/C.5/310).

In considering this Section the Committee had also before it a general policy statement on the use of the European Office (A/C.5/322) submitted by the Secretary-General at the request of the Committee. This paper indicated i.a. the 1950 conference programme of meetings to be held in the Geneva Office by United Nations bodies and by the specialized agencies.

116. The Committee first held a general discussion on this Section in the course of which a number of questions were raised such as the schedule of meetings; the work-load of the staff; the admission of visitors to the Palais des Nations; installation of simultaneous interpretation equipment; use of the building and of common services by the specialized agencies; accommodation of the World Health Organization; the question of whether or not certain meetings should be held at Geneva and of the justification of the extra costs involved. This last matter has been fully dealt with in Part II of this report, paragraphs 46 to 49.

117. The Committee then considered in detail the different Chapters of Section 20. In connexion with Chapter I, General Services, several members considered that the explanations of the Geneva work programme were not as clear as they might be; it was desirable that in the future the meeting schedules were presented in such a way that the Fifth Committee would be able to exercise fully its authority in the matter of the programme of meetings since important administrative and financial factors were involved.

/The Committee

The Committee rejected, by 22 votes to 7, with 8 abstentions, the proposal of the Secretary-General that a sum of \$20,000 be restored for Chapter I. It also rejected, by 20 votes to 14, with 4 abstentions, a proposal from the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to restore the amount of \$18,000 requested by the Secretary-General for established posts under this Chapter. The estimate as recommended by the Advisory Committee in the amount of \$1,872,740 was approved by 30 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

After the Committee, at its 210th meeting, had voted against supplementary credits for the eleventh session of the Economic and Social Council to convene in Geneva (paragraph 55, above), a reduction of \$30,000 was applied to this sum, leaving a total provision of \$1,842,740.

118. At its 207th meeting, the Committee also considered the estimates for Chapter II, Information Services at Geneva, for which the Secretary-General had requested restoration of \$25,200, making a total estimate of \$125,050. The Committee was informed that the reduction in posts recommended by the Advisory Committee would seriously handicap the service. It took the view, however, that since the opening of new information centres should have resulted in a decrease of work for the Centre in Geneva, there was no justification for the restoration requested by the Secretary-General, and his proposal to add an amount of \$25,200 to the estimate recommended by the Advisory Committee was accordingly rejected by 25 votes to 8, with 6 abstentions. The Committee then approved the total amount of \$99,850 for Information Services, as recommended by the Advisory Committee, by 34 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

119. Equally at its 207th meeting, the Committee approved, unanimously, the estimates for Chapter III, the Secretariat of the Permanent Central Opium Board and of the Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Board, in the amount of \$53,410 as recommended by the Advisory Committee and accepted by the Secretary-General.

120. At its 208th meeting, the Committee reviewed the estimates for Chapter IV, the Economic Commission for Europe. A difference of \$98,250 between the Advisory Committee's recommendations and the Secretary-General's revised estimates was involved, relating to established posts and consultants.

Although there was general recognition of the high quality of the work of the Commission, particularly of its research work, it was felt by some delegations that the Commission should be reorganized, not only for the sake of economy but also as a matter of efficiency. They considered that the Advisory Committee had made a number of commendable suggestions, and that it was important not to confuse the value and nature of the work produced by the Commission with the question of whether the work could be done with less expenditure. Taking into account the indirect costs, it was apparent that the total costs of the Commission amounted to \$2,000,000. The work of the

Commission should be confined to those fields in which effective international action could be taken on the regional plane without duplicating the work of functional commissions and specialized agencies.

It was suggested that the Economic and Social Council, at the time of review of the Regional Economic Commissions, should have before it a statement on the full costs of these Commissions, as well as a commentary by the Secretary-General on the administrative questions referred to in the Advisory Committee's second report of 1949 (A/934).

Several other delegations, however, considered that the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee was too severe in this case. That Committee's comments in paragraph 175 of its report, appeared somewhat restrictive and that the Fifth Committee should not reduce credits for this regional commission to a point which would risk impeding the full implementation of the Commission's functions as set out in Resolution 36 (IV) of the Economic and Social Council which had established it.

121. The Committee then proceeded to a vote on the proposals submitted in the course of the discussion. A proposal from the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to eliminate the appropriation for the Frankfurt Liaison Office was rejected by 27 votes to 7, with 4 abstentions.

A proposal by the representative of Brazil to restore only half the sum requested by the Secretary-General and so diminish a tendency to perpetuate sections the work of which had been largely completed did not reach a vote since the Committee decided by 23 votes to 16, with 2 abstentions, to adopt the revised estimates of the Secretary-General in a total amount of \$1,097,200.

Also at its 208th meeting, the Committee accepted for Chapter V, Common Staff Costs, by 30 votes to none, with 10 abstentions, a restoration requested by the Secretary-General as revised on account of the decisions taken on previous Chapters. A sum of \$12,600 was involved. The total estimate approved for this Chapter thus amounted to \$612,600.

122. At the same meeting, the Committee accepted the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee for Chapter VI, Common Services, in the amount of \$320,000, by 33 votes to none, with 4 abstentions, having previously rejected a revised estimate from the Secretary-General for restoration of \$25,000.

123. At its 207th meeting, in considering the credits for Chapter VII, Permanent Equipment, the Committee had adopted by 13 votes to 12, with 15, abstentions, a proposal by the delegation of Brazil to restore a sum of \$40,000 for the purchase of simultaneous interpretation equipment to be used in the Geneva Office. It was pointed out to the Committee that there was little prospect of the equipment currently being used at Lake Success becoming available for installation at Geneva after the transfer to the new

/Headquarters.

Headquarters. The assurance was given that the possibility of purchasing such equipment in soft currency countries would be explored. The total estimate approved for Chapter VII was \$161,100.

124. As a result of the above decisions the total estimate for Section 20, United Nations Office at Geneva, was approved at first reading in a sum of \$4,186,900. To this amount was added a sum of \$8,500 on account of the transfer of reductions on contractual printing for Section 28. The Committee confirmed the total figure of \$4,195,300 by a unanimous vote in second reading at its 233rd meeting.

Section 21. (Information Centres)

125. The estimates submitted by the Secretary-General for Section 21 in the amount of \$858,400 had been reduced by the Advisory Committee to \$839,550. Apart from its comments and recommendations with respect to the budget estimates for this Section, that Committee had also submitted in its Second report of 1949 (A/934, Part III, par. 250-265) recommendations on the activities of the Information Centres which were the result of an investigation of that matter following the decision of the General Assembly at its 186th plenary meeting on 11 December 1948 (A/798, par. 30). These recommendations related to the staffing pattern, categories of staff, priority of functions, nationality of heads of centres, Washington Information Centre, administrative arrangements, accounting methods in the Centres, and cabling expenses.

126. The Fifth Committee dealt with the matter of Information Centres, which is a subject that falls within its competence both as to substance and financial implications, at its 204, 205, 210, 211 and 224th meetings. At the 204th meeting remarks were made with respect to the number of staff of the larger Centres, delay in the establishment of the Weheran Centre, the amount of cabling expenses, possible savings through devaluation, and the Washington Centre. Agreement with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 261 of its report, dealing with nationality of heads of Centres, was also expressed. The Committee approved by 36 votes to none, with 6 abstentions, at the first reading, an amount of \$839,550 as recommended by the Advisory Committee for Section 21. It also took note of paragraphs 250-265 of the Advisory Committee's report.

127. During the discussion the delegation of Liberia had proposed that the Fifth Committee should approve the establishment of an Information Centre in West Africa, and he subsequently submitted a draft resolution to that effect (A/C.5/L.19, which the Committee had before it at its 205th meeting. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics suggested that the Secretary-General submit a memorandum on the possibility of setting up two Information Centres in Trust Territories, one in East Africa, the other in West Africa, the appropriations for these additional Centres to be obtained from savings resulting from decrease in staff of other Information Centres in countries where there existed already adequate means of information.

The Secretary-General submitted a report (A/C.5/321) including estimates in the amount of \$37,660 for a Centre to be located in Liberia, to serve West and Equatorial Africa in accordance with agreements to be reached with the appropriate authorities, and also, with similar reservations, for a second Centre which would be located in East Africa

/to cover



to cover East African Territories. The estimate for this Centre amounted to \$34,790.

128. After a discussion at the 205th meeting of the propriety of consideration by the Fifth Committee, without specific reference to it by another Committee of the question of establishing an Information Centre in a Non-Self-Governing Territory, the Committee decided to request the Advisory Committee to report on the Secretary-General's estimates regarding the establishment of an Information Centre in Liberia only.

The Tenth report of 1949 of the Advisory Committee (A/1047), considered by the Fifth Committee at its 210th and 211th meetings, pointed out that the accepted practice had been that, on administrative and budgetary grounds, the initiative in regard to the establishment and location of a particular Centre should rest with the Secretary-General. A departure from that practice might, by constituting a precedent, have extensive financial consequences. The Advisory Committee accordingly recommended that the Secretary-General should study the whole question, having regard to the points raised in the course of the discussion and, in particular, to the observations of the representative of Liberia, and should report to the General Assembly at its fifth regular session. Several delegations stated that they considered sympathetically the substance of the Liberian resolution but could not agree to it because of the procedural question it involved. They considered that the Advisory Committee had acted correctly in submitting the recommendations of its Tenth report. However, they expressed the wish that the matter be further studied at the current session. The Committee decided that the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee should review the whole question of establishing a second Information Centre in Africa with particular reference to whether its establishment was judged advisable, the extent of the area to be served, and the economies which might be effected elsewhere in the total budget for information services to offset the resulting costs. This action was acceptable to the Committee, as a whole.

129. At its 224th meeting, the Committee had before it the estimates and conclusions of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/349) and the Twentieth report of 1949 of the Advisory Committee (A/1085).

The Advisory Committee had taken note of the Secretary-General's recommendation that a new Centre be established in Monrovia for the purpose of serving the Republic of Liberia. Any proposals for an extension of the Centre's activities to other parts of the region would necessarily be the subject of negotiations with the administering authorities in the region, as a step antecedent to budgetary consideration by the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee noted that the Secretary-General

/considered it

considered it was not possible to finance the new Centre without an additional appropriation of \$20,290. Nevertheless the Advisory Committee hoped that, in practice, it might prove possible to meet the additional requirements out of savings, either on Section 13 or on the budget generally. The Fifth Committee then decided at first reading by 32 votes to none, with 2 abstentions, to increase the appropriation for Section 21 by \$20,290 to a total of \$859,840. The representative of Liberia, expressing his satisfaction at the decision taken, withdrew his proposal.

130. The delegation of Poland observed that during the second reading, his delegation would make a proposal to reduce the total appropriation for Section 21 by \$20,290, without prejudice to the establishment of a new Centre in Liberia, the costs of this Centre to be met from savings obtained through reduction in size of the larger existing Centres. A proposal to this effect submitted at the 233rd meeting of the Committee was accepted by 15 votes to 6, with 12 abstentions. The total estimates for Section 21, in the amount of \$839,550, were then approved by 31 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

Sections 22 and 23. (Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East;  
Economic Commission for Latin America)

131. Sections 22 and 23 were considered at the 221st meeting of the Committee.

In its Second report of 1949 (A/934) the Advisory Committee had taken note of the fact, that the Economic and Social Council will make a special review of the work of the regional economic commissions; it believed therefore that pending this review, the preferable course would be to seek to achieve stability at approximately the present level of costs. It indicated certain steps that might be taken in the direction of economy.

The Advisory Committee reduced the original estimates of the Secretary-General as follows: for Section 22 (ECAFE) from \$621,900 to \$598,700; for Section 23 (ECLA) from \$464,500 to \$449,500. The Secretary-General had accepted these reductions. These figures were increased to \$598,850 and \$450,500 respectively, following the Fifth Committee's decision to consolidate the reductions on contractual printing in Section 28.

132. In consequence of decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its ninth session, revised estimates had been submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/324) and reviewed by the Advisory Committee in its Thirteenth report of 1949 (A/1056).

For Section 22, the Secretary-General had requested an additional amount of \$88,000; the Advisory Committee recommended that this sum be reduced to \$48,000. For Section 23, the Secretary-General had submitted a supplementary estimate of \$75,000, the Advisory Committee recommending that this be reduced to \$33,000.

133. Several delegations expressed the view that an increase in appropriations was necessary to give these Economic Commissions every opportunity to achieve good results and to maintain them at a high level. In this connexion, the delegate of Poland suggested that some improvement in the documentation of the Commission could be effected through closer co-ordination with Headquarters. It was also pointed out, however, that the Secretary-General himself had accepted the recommendations of the Advisory Committee which could be considered as well-founded.

With respect to the supplementary item for the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of \$13,500 in respect of the travel and subsistence allowance of the trade experts for whom meetings in Santiago were planned. As the English text of the relevant resolution of the Commission was not very clear, there ensued discussion as to whether or not these experts were to be considered as government

/representatives;

representatives; if they were so, then the relevant parts of General Assembly resolution 231 (III) were applicable and no reimbursement should be effected, otherwise a precedent would be established which might be followed by similar bodies. The Committee was informed that the Executive Secretary would himself appoint the experts concerned, on the suggestion of governments. He had been asked by the Commission to call informal meetings of experts from countries having similar trade problems. It was not necessarily the intention that all 24 experts should be called together at once. The representative of Brazil considered that the group in question was actually a group of experts selected by the Executive Secretary and not delegated by the various governments. There was, in his opinion, a discrepancy between the explanation given by the representative of the Secretary-General and those contained in the Advisory Committee's report. He would support the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General.

The Committee, by 34 votes to 6, with 4 abstentions, approved the Secretary-General's revised estimates of \$686,850 for Section 22 (ECAFE), involving an increase of \$40,000 over the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

By 41 votes to 3, with 4 abstentions, the Committee approved the Secretary-General's revised estimates of \$525,500 for Section 23 (ECLA), involving an increase of \$42,000 over the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

These figures were confirmed in second reading by a unanimous vote at the 233rd meeting.

Section 24. (Hospitality)

134. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee, that the estimates for hospitality be approved in the amount of \$20,000, was accepted by the Committee at its 205th meeting and this decision was confirmed in second reading by a unanimous vote at the 233rd meeting.

Sections 25, 25a and 25b. (Advisory Social Welfare Functions; Technical Assistance for Economic Development; International Centre for Training in Public Administration)

135. At its 205th meeting, the Committee considered the estimates for Section 25, Advisory Social Welfare Functions, Section 25(a), Technical Assistance for Economic Development, and Section 25(b), International Centre for Training in Public Administration.

With respect to Sections 25 and 25(a), the Advisory Committee had approved the estimates as presented by the Secretary-General; for Section 25(b), it had recommended a reduction of \$10,000 relating to a proposed grant. The Advisory Committee drew the attention to matters such as participation in costs by recipient governments, and the uncertainty, at the time of writing of the report, of the relationship of the technical assistance programme to the larger programme of technical assistance then before the Economic and Social Council.

136. The Third Committee not yet having taken a decision as to the basis on which the Advisory Social Welfare Services should be continued, the Committee discussed this matter in the light of the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council; if necessary the appropriation would be subsequently reviewed. In any case, it was recognized that the question whether this activity would be on a permanent or continuing basis or not did not fall within the Fifth Committee's competence; on the other hand, the question of the actual appropriation to be decided each year for as long as the activity continued was within the Committee's competence, and this sum could vary in amount according to the particular financial circumstances of the Organization as foreseen by the Committee in any year.

Several delegations associated themselves with the observations of the Advisory Committee with respect to the desirability of increasing financial participation in the programme by governments concerned and the part to be played by the Secretary-General in that connection. Although some delegations considered that consideration of the appropriation for the Advisory Social Welfare Services should have awaited the substantive review of the programme by the Third Committee, the Committee decided to approve at its first reading an appropriation of \$635,900 for Section 25, the estimates of the Secretary-General with which the Advisory Committee had agreed.

/The representative

The representative, in reply to a point raised by the representative of Australia, promised that the Secretary-General would bear in mind the possibility of a transfer of Section 25, 25(a) and 25(b) to the Technical Assistance budget. Furthermore, these Sections would be carefully studied in connection with devaluation and the utilization of soft currencies.

137. In connection with Technical Assistance for Economic Development, it was pointed out to the Committee that the programme, which derived from General Assembly Resolution 200 (III), had been unanimously endorsed by the Second Committee.

The Secretary-General had recommended an expansion of the programme in 1950 as compared with 1949. It was the view of the Committee that, since an increased level of activity under this heading in 1950 had general support, an estimate in the amount proposed by the Secretary-General was justified.

The Committee approved an estimate for 1950 of \$539,000 for section 22a, as submitted by the Secretary-General and recommended by the Advisory Committee.

138. In connection with the International Centre for Training in Public Administration, the Advisory Committee had approved the estimates of the Secretary-General, subject to a reduction of \$10,000 for a grant to the International Institute of Administrative Science at Brussels as, apart from other considerations, it believed that such a grant might constitute an embarrassing precedent.

The representative of Venezuela proposed the restoration of this item, in order to obviate the difficulty which the Advisory Committee had in view, it would be understood that the amount in question would be in the nature of a contractual payment, to be used for the financing of the Institute's Committee on Administrative Practices. In this manner there would be no danger of a precedent being created.

The Chairman of the International Service Advisory Board referred to the Secretary-General's report on International Facilities for the Promotion of Training in Public Administration (E/1336), Section D, paragraph 3 (d) of which expressed the opinion of the Board that a modest start should be made, thus avoiding the risk of failure through over-expansion as well as the duplication of existing training institutions and facilities. The Board, which had only examined the programme to be carried out by the Centre, had made a number of suggestions with respect to activities to be undertaken.

By 28 votes to none, with 12 abstentions, the Committee approved the restoration proposed by the representative of Venezuela with the above provi-

/The Committee

The Committee then approved total estimates in the amount of \$149,500 for Section 25(b).

At its 233rd meeting the Committee confirmed by a unanimous vote the above amounts for Sections 25 and 25(a), Section 25(b) being approved by 32 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Section 26. (Transfer of the Assets of the League of Nations to the United Nations)

139. At its 205th meeting the Committee approved an appropriation of \$533,768, representing the amount of the second and final instalment of credits which, under paragraph 1(b) of Resolution 250 (III) of the General Assembly, are due to certain Member States in respect of the assets (other than permanent capital assets) of the League of Nations, transferred to the United Nations.

This decision was confirmed in second reading by a unanimous vote at the 233rd meeting.

Section 27. (International Court of Justice)

140. The Committee considered the estimates for the International Court of Justice at its 205th and 206th meetings, approving in first reading the sum of \$633,965 for Section 27, recommended by the Advisory Committee and accepted by the Court without prejudice either to the decision on the application of the Staff Assessment Plan to the Registry of the Court, to which reference is made in paragraph 20 above, or to the effect of devaluation of currencies on the salaries and allowances of the Judges and the Registrar of the International Court which is dealt with in paragraph \_\_\_ of this report.

It was pointed out to the Committee that this amount did not include any specific appropriations for the custody of the archives of the Nuremberg Tribunal to which the Court had given its agreement in principle. That custody, however, would presumably not entail great expenditure, and the Committee was informed that the Secretary-General would try to meet such expenditure from existing appropriations. If he were unable to do so, he would ask the Advisory Committee for permission to effect a transfer between sections of the budget.

At the 233rd meeting the Committee approved in second reading by 37 votes to none, with 2 abstentions, total estimates of \$634,765 for this section, which sum includes an amount of \$800 related to the transfer of reductions on Contractual Printing to Section 28.

Section 28. (Global Reduction on Provision for Contractual Printing)

141. In dealing with contractual printing as a whole during its 203rd and 204th meetings to which reference is made in paragraph 15 of this report,  
/the Committee

the Committee was informed that the Secretary-General had accepted reductions in his estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee in an amount of \$210,770 (A/C.5/316). The Advisory Committee was agreeable to the request of the Secretary-General that this sum be shown as a global deduction from the total estimate and established in an additional Section of the Budget.

The amounts for the budget sections as adopted in first reading, were approved, as appropriately adjusted in consequence of the above decision, in second reading at the Committee's 232nd and 233rd meetings.

The total amount of \$210,770 for Section 28 was unanimously approved at the 233rd meeting.

Section 29. (Global Reduction on Account of Devaluation of Currencies)

142. The effect on the budget estimates for 1950 of devaluation of currencies by certain countries has been dealt with in paragraphs 28-30 of this report. At its 224th meeting the Committee accepted by 30 votes to none, with 5 abstentions, the figure of \$500,000 as the total saving likely to accrue as a result of devaluation of certain currencies and approved that sum being shown as a single item in a new Section of the Budget to be applied appropriately by the Secretary-General during 1950 in reduction of the various sections of the budget concerned.

Section 29 was approved in second reading by a vote of 37 to none, with 1 abstention, at the 233rd meeting.



IV

Working Capital Fund and Unforeseen and Extraordinary Expenses

143. At its 211th meeting, the Fifth Committee considered Chapter V of the Second report of 1949 of the Advisory Committee (A/934) and the draft resolution relating to the Working Capital Fund, as contained in Chapter I, Appendix III. of that report. It also considered the draft resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses submitted by the Advisory Committee in Appendix II to Chapter I of that same report.

144. There was some discussion as to the level at which the Working Capital Fund should be maintained. Reference to this question had already been made by a number of Members taking part in the general discussion on the budget. The Committee heard a statement on the Working Capital Fund by the Chairman of the Board of External Auditors who reviewed the disbursements made from the Fund in the current year and anticipated for 1950, and the pattern of collection of contributions to be expected in the light of the experience of past years and taking into account the possible influence on the speed of collection of currency revaluations. The Chairman of the Board of Auditors, referring to the problem of the level of the Working Capital Fund, suggested that it might be argued that it was inefficient to have a fixed amount of working capital credits when the size of the budget fluctuated from year to year and when Members might annually select a different month in which to pay their contributions. He made suggestions for an alternative to the maintenance of the Fund at \$20,000,000 under his plan the Secretary-General would be authorized to arrange short-term bank loans pending receipt of some of the larger contributions. In this manner it would be possible to maintain the Fund at a lower level. Several Members of the Committee commented upon this suggestion; they felt that it was inappropriate for an international organization such as the United Nations to institute the practice of borrowing from banks. It was generally recognized that it would be inadvisable to lower the level of the Working Capital Fund. The representative of Australia requested that consideration be given at an early date to amendment of the Financial Regulations in order that the surplus of one year might be applied against the assessments for the next.

145. The Secretary-General had proposed that the Working Capital Fund be maintained at \$20,000,000 and the Advisory Committee had recommended the approval of that proposal as necessary to the financial soundness of the Organization. The Secretary-General had submitted, primarily for the information of the Fifth Committee, a report on Unforeseen and Extraordinary Expenses for 1949 and Advances from the Working Capital Fund (A/1007).

/However, action

However, action was required in particular on the recommendation of the Secretary-General that a one-year extension be granted to the Interim Commission of the International Trade Organization for repayment of loans made to that Organization by the United Nations in 1948. That recommendation was accepted by 27 votes to 6, with 8 abstentions, in the form of an amendment to paragraph 4 (d) of the draft resolution submitted by the Advisory Committee. Paragraph 4 (d) as amended was then approved by 29 votes to none, with 13 abstentions. The other paragraphs were adopted unanimously and the draft resolution, as amended, was approved by 36 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

146. Consequent upon the Committee's agreement, at its 213th meeting, to extend for 1950 the authorization for the Secretary-General to draw upon the Working Capital Fund, if necessary, for reimbursement to staff members of national income taxes paid by them on their salaries and other emoluments, such reimbursement being deemed to cover income taxes imposed by State or other local authorities as well. The draft resolution, as initially approved was modified by inclusion of an additional paragraph making provision accordingly.

147. At its 234th meeting, the Committee considered a draft resolution adopted by the Ad Hoc Political Committee on 2 December 1949 (A/1222) relating to assistance to Palestine refugees. This matter was the subject of a special report from the Committee to the General Assembly (A/1223). The Fifth Committee agreed that subject to the adoption of the above-mentioned draft resolution of the Ad Hoc Political Committee by the General Assembly, provision be made in the draft resolution relating to the Working Capital Fund authorizing the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, to advance funds not exceeding \$5,000,000 from the Working Capital Fund, subject to repayment not later than 31 December 1950.

148. The resolution relating to the Working Capital Fund which the Fifth Committee submits for approval by the General Assembly is contained in the Appendix to this report as Resolution III.

149. The Advisory Committee's draft resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses was adopted unanimously at the 233rd meeting, paragraph C being amended in accordance with a revised text submitted by the Secretary-General. This resolution is included in the Appendix to this report as Resolution II.

/In consequence

In consequence of the foregoing decisions, the Fifth Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolutions:

# RESOLUTION I

## APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1950

### The General Assembly

Resolves that for the financial year 1950

1. An amount of \$41,641,773 is hereby appropriated for the following purposes:

### A. THE UNITED NATIONS

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

##### Section

1. The General Assembly and Commissions and Committees thereof		\$1,326,960	
2. The Security Council and Commissions and Committees thereof		357,600	
3. The Economic and Social Council and Commissions and Committees thereof	\$325,390		
3(a) Permanent Central Opium Board and Drug Supervisory Body	39,900		
3(b) Regional Economic Commissions	<u>53,560</u>	418,850	
4. The Trusteeship Council and Commissions and Committees thereof		<u>175,750</u>	\$2,279,160

#### PART II. SPECIAL CONFERENCES, INVESTIGATIONS AND INQUIRIES

5. Special Conference	53,600		
6. Investigations and Inquiries	3,417,700		
6(a) United Nations Field Service	<u>337,000</u>	3,808,300	

#### PART III. HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

7. Executive Office of the Secretary-General	512,000		
7(a) Library	449,500		
8. Department of Security Council Affairs	841,200		
9. Military Staff Committee Secretariat	144,800		
10. Department of Economic Affairs	2,450,000		
11. Department of Social Affairs	1,689,500		
12. Department for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories	935,000		

Section

PART III. HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK (Cont.)

13. Department of Public Information	\$3,264,250	
14. Department of Legal Affairs	527,300	
15. Conference and General Services	8,731,200	
16. Administrative and Financial Services	1,720,000	
17. Common Staff Costs	3,888,000	
18. Common Services	2,110,300	
19. Permanent Equipment	241,800	\$27,504,85

PART IV. UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

20. The European Office (excluding direct costs, Chapter III, Secretariat of the Permanent Central Opium Board and Drug Supervisory Body)	\$4,141,990	
Chapter III, the Secretariat (direct costs) of the Permanent Central Opium Board and Drug Supervisory Body	<u>53,410</u>	<u>4,195,400</u> 4,195,40

PART V. INFORMATION CENTRES

21. Information Centres (other than Information Services, European Office)	<u>839,550</u>	839,5
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PART VI. REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS

(Other than the Economic Commission for Europe)

22. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East	686,850	
23. Economic Commission for Latin America	<u>525,500</u>	1,212

PART VII. HOSPITALITY

24. Hospitality	<u>20,000</u>	20,00
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PART VIII. TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES

25. Advisory Social Welfare Functions	635,900	
25(a) Technical Assistance for Economic Development	539,900	
25(b) International Centre for Training in Public Administration	<u>149,500</u>	1,324,40

PART IX. SPECIAL EXPENSES

26. Transfer of Assets of the League of Nations to the United Nations	<u>533,768</u>	533,76
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B. INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

PART X. THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

27. The International Court of Justice 634,765 634,765

C. SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

PART XI. GLOBAL REDUCTION ON ACCOUNT OF CONTRACTUAL PRINTING AND  
DEVALUATION OF CERTAIN CURRENCIES

Section

28. Global reduction on provisions for Contractual Printing	-210,77
29. Global reduction on account of devaluation of currencies	-500,000
	\$ 42,641,775

2. The appropriations granted by paragraph 1 shall be financed by contributions from Members after adjustment as provided by regulation 17 of the Provisional Financial Regulations. For this purpose, miscellaneous income for the financial year 1950 is estimated at \$5,091,740 (US).

3. Amounts not exceeding the appropriations granted by paragraph 1 shall be available for payment of obligations in respect of goods supplied and services rendered during the period 1 January 1950 to 31 December 1950.

4. The Secretary-General is authorized:

- (i) To administer as a unit the appropriations provided under Section 3(a) and Section 20, Chapter III.
- (ii) To apply the reduction under Section 28 to the various sections concerned of the budget.
- (iii) To apply the reduction under Section 29 to the various sections concerned of the budget.
- (iv) With the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to transfer credits between sections of the budget.

5. In addition to the appropriations granted by paragraph 1, an amount of \$14,000 (US) 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.

## RESOLUTION II

### UNFORESEEN AND EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES

#### THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES that for the financial year 1950:

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 \$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 may be necessary to provide for reasonable expenses for the proposed Economic Commission for the Middle East should the Economic and Social Council decide that this Commission shall be created in 1950;

(c) 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 of witnesses and experts (Statute, Article 50);
- (iii) by the holding of sessions of the Court away from The Hague (Statute, Article 22);

and which do not exceed \$24,000, \$25,000 and \$75,000 respectively, under each of these three headings.

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

### RESOLUTION III

#### WORKING CAPITAL FUND

##### THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

##### RESOLVES that:

1. The Working Capital Fund shall be maintained to 31 December 1950 at the amount of \$20,000,000 (U.S.);
2. Members shall make advances to the Working Capital Fund in accordance with the scale adopted by the General Assembly for contributions of Members to the fifth 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 1949; provided that, should the advance paid by any Member to the Working Capital Fund for the financial year 1949 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 fifth 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 \$250,000 to continue the revolving fund to finance miscellaneous self-liquidating purchases and activities. Advances in excess of the total of \$250,000 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 auspice 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 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

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 \$3,000,000 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 \$1,000,000; provided that an extension of one year shall be granted to the Interim Commission of the International Trade Organization for the repayment of the 1948 loans;

(e) Such sums, as together with the sums previously advanced and outstanding for the same purpose, do not exceed \$500,000 to continue the staff housing fund in order to finance advance rental payment, guarantee deposits and working capital requirements for housing the staff of the Secretariat. Such advances shall be reimbursed to the Working Capital Fund following the recovery of the rental advances, guarantee deposits and working capital advances;

(f) Such sums, if any, as may be necessary to reimburse staff members for national income taxes paid by them in respect of payments received from the United Nations during 1950, or in respect of prior years for which reimbursement had not previously been made.

(g) In consultation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, such sums up to \$5,000,000 for assistance to Palestine refugees, in accordance with the provisions of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its 273rd plenary meeting on 8 December 1949.



## RESOLUTION IV

## TAX EQUALIZATION - STAFF ASSESSMENT PLAN

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Resolves that articles 1 to 7 of Part A of resolution 239(III) be and hereby are cancelled and superseded by the following articles:

Article 1

That for each calendar year beginning after 31 December 1948, all salaries, wages, overtime and night differential payments, cost-of-living adjustments (or differentials) and the allowance for dependent children, to whomsoever paid by the United Nations, shall be subject to an assessment on the recipient at the rates and under the terms specified in the following articles.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the Secretary-General may, where, in special circumstances he deems it necessary and expedient, exempt from the assessment the salaries and other emoluments of staff engaged at locality rates, such as those serving missions of the United Nations or its smaller field offices.

Article 2

That all amounts payable by the United Nations in accordance with arrangements in force at 1 January 1949, other than those assessable under article 1, shall be exempt from this assessment.

Article 3

(a) That the assessment shall be calculated according to the following rates:

On assessable payments not exceeding 4,000 dollars. . . . .	15 per cent
On the next 2,000 dollars of assessable payments. . . . .	20 per cent
On the next 2,000 dollars of assessable payments. . . . .	25 per cent
On the next 2,000 dollars of assessable payments. . . . .	30 per cent
On the next 2,000 dollars of assessable payments. . . . .	35 per cent
On the next 3,000 dollars of assessable payments. . . . .	40 per cent
On all remaining assessable income.	50 per cent

(b) In the case of a person who is not employed by the United Nations for the whole of a calendar year or in cases where there is a change in the annual rate of payments made to a staff member, the rate of assessment shall be governed by the annual rate of each such payment made to him.

Article 4

(a) That the following credits shall be deductible from the assessment computed under article 3 if claimed in writing and supported by evidence satisfactory to the Secretary-General:

(i) Two hundred dollars for a wife or a dependent husband, or 200 dollars for the dependent children of a staff member who is not entitled to credit for a wife or a dependent husband;

(ii) One hundred dollars for dependent relatives, i.e. a dependent parent, or brother or sister, or a mentally or physically incapacitated child over 16 years of age.

(b) The maximum credit under paragraph (a) (i) shall be 200 dollars, and the maximum credit under paragraph (a) (ii) shall be 100 dollars. A credit shall not be granted under both paragraph (a) (i) and paragraph (a) (ii).

(c) A separate claim for the above-mentioned credits shall be made for each year. In the year in which the circumstances giving rise to the claim first occur, the credit shall be limited to the appropriate portion of that year.

(d) Where both husband and wife are on the staff of the United Nations, a credit under paragraph (a) (ii) shall not be granted to both of them.

(e) The Secretary-General may reduce the credits provided by this article in such cases where salaries are paid at locality rates which diverge widely from the Headquarters salary scales.

#### Article 5

That notwithstanding article 1, relief shall be given in respect of dependent children by way of exemption from assessable income. The amount of exemption to be granted shall be the amount of the Children's Allowance in pay and included under article 1 as assessable income.

#### Article 6

That the assessment computed under the foregoing article shall be collected by the United Nations by withholding it from payments. No part of the assessment so collected shall be refunded because of cessation of employment during the calendar year.

#### Article 7

That revenue derived from the assessment shall be applied as an appropriation-in-aid of the budget.

RESOLUTION V

EXTENSION OF THE PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA:  
ARRANGEMENTS TO BE ENTERED INTO BETWEEN THE  
UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Taking cognizance of the arrangements proposed by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/361 in connexion with the extension of the Palais des Nations in Geneva and the granting of a lease to the World Health Organization;

Considering that no United Nations expenditures will be required in respect of the proposed extension of the Palais des Nations;

Noting in this connexion that the Building Committee of the World Health Organization has decided on 26 November 1949, to accept a gift of 3,000,000 Swiss francs from the Swiss Government as a contribution towards the achievement of the purposes set out in document A/C.5/361 and that the World Health Organization will have full responsibility for the additional expenditures required to cover the total construction cost of the projected extension;

Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into such arrangements with the World Health Organization and the Swiss Government as he may see fit for the attainment of the purposes set out in document A/C.5/361.

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