

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SIXTH SESSION

Official Records



FIFTH COMMITTEE 3246

MEETING

Thursday, 10 January 1952, at 3 p.m.

Palais de Chaillot, Paris

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*Chairman: Mr. T. A. STONE (Canada).*

### Programme of work

1 The CHAIRMAN, referring to a letter which he had received from the President of the General Assembly calling for a special effort on the part of representatives and the Secretariat in order to bring the sixth session of the General Assembly to a close on a date approximating the target date of 26 January 1952, suggested that the Fifth Committee should hold occasional night meetings as from 14 January 1952.

*It was so decided.*

### Budget estimates for the financial year 1952:

(a) Budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/478, A/C.5/479, A/C.5/480, A/C.5/481, A/C.5/482, A/C.5/483); (b) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/2040, A/2041, A/2042, A/2043, A/2044, A/2045)

[Item 41] \*

#### PART II, SECTION 5, CHAPTER V:

#### UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BALKANS

2. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that in his report on the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans (A/C.5/481), the Secretary-General asked for the approval of a credit of \$87,400 under section 5, chapter V, of the 1952 budget in order to liquidate the Committee, and suggested that the appropriation approved under section 33 should be correspondingly reduced. As the financial consequences of any action to be taken by the

\* Indicates the item number on the General Assembly agenda.

Balkans Sub-Commission of the Peace Observation Commission could not be foreseen at the present time, the Secretary-General proposed that any expenditure arising therefrom should be met by advances from the Working Capital Fund as a commitment relating to peace and security.

3. In its third report of 1952 (A/2040), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had recommended for approval an amount of \$85,000 under section 5, chapter V, of the 1952 budget, together with a corresponding reduction in the appropriation adopted for section 33.

4. Mr. CHECHETKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the statements made by USSR representatives at plenary meetings of the General Assembly and in various Main Committees, said his delegation objected to the appropriations requested and would therefore vote against them. The United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans had been set up in violation of the principles of the Charter and constituted an interference in the domestic affairs of Greece.

5. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that an amount of \$85,000 under section 5, chapter V, of the 1952 budget, together with a corresponding reduction in the appropriation approved for section 33 be approved.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation was adopted by 33 votes to 5.*

#### SECTION V, CHAPTER III:

#### UNITED NATIONS COMMISSIONER IN ERITREA

6. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Commissioner in Eritrea (A/C.5/483) which stated that the estimates submitted were based on the assumption that the Com-

missioner would have completed his task under General Assembly resolution 390 (V) by 15 September 1952, and that the Commission would thereupon be discontinued. The Secretary-General requested that credits in the amounts of \$139,400 and \$3,000 respectively be approved for the Commissioner in Eritrea under section 5, chapter III, and section 25, chapter V, of the 1952 budget, and that the appropriation already voted for section 33 be reduced correspondingly.

7. In its fourth report of 1952 (A/2041), the Advisory Committee recommended for approval the provision of \$135,000 and \$3,000 respectively under section 5, chapter III, and section 25, chapter V, of the 1952 budget, the appropriation already voted for section 33 being reduced accordingly.

8. Mr. CHECHETKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation objected to the appropriation requested and would therefore vote against it. In his delegation's opinion, the activities of the United Nations Commissioner did not correspond with the wishes of the people in Eritrea, and were not in accordance with the principles of the Charter.

9. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat), replying to Mr. van ASCH van WIJK (Netherlands), who asked for clarification of paragraph 6 (a) of the Secretary General's report (A/C.5/483), said that the United Nations Commissioner was stationed in Eritrea and provision had been made in the estimates for one round trip between Eritrea and New York to enable the Principal Secretary of the mission to travel to New York for consultation.

10. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that an appropriation be made of \$135,000 under section 5, chapter III, and \$3,000 under section 25, chapter V, of the 1952 budget, and that the appropriation already voted for section 33 should be reduced accordingly.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation was adopted by 36 votes to 5.*

#### SECTION 5, CHAPTER IV: UNITED NATIONS COMMISSIONER IN LIBYA

11. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that in his report on the United Nations Commissioner in Libya (A/C.5/480) the Secretary-General had submitted estimates covering the liquidation of the office of the Commissioner during the month of January 1952 consequent upon the discontinuance of that office as from the end of December 1951. The Secretary-General requested for that purpose credits in the amounts of \$85,700 and \$10,000 respectively under section 5, chapter IV, and section 25, chapter V, of the 1952 budget, and suggested that the appropriation already voted for section 33 should be reduced accordingly.

12. In its fifth report of 1952 (A/2042) the Advisory Committee recommended for approval amounts of \$83,000 and \$7,500 respectively under section 5, chapter IV, and section 25, chapter V, of the 1952 budget, and a corresponding reduction in the appropriation voted for section 33.

13. Mr. CHECHETKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation would vote against the appropriation requested as it considered that the appointment and activities of the United Nations Commissioner in Libya constituted an interference in the domestic affairs of Libya and did not meet with the

approval of the Libyan people, especially in view of the fact that Libya had become an independent State.

14. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that appropriations in the amounts of \$83,000 and \$7,500 be approved under section 5, chapter IV, and section 25, chapter V, of the 1952 budget, and that the appropriation voted under section 33 be reduced accordingly.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation was adopted by 37 votes to 5.*

#### SECTION 5, CHAPTER I:

##### MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

15. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General, in submitting estimates for the Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, had pointed out in his report (A/C.5/478) that the Security Council had taken no action to modify its resolution S/1469<sup>1</sup> of 14 March 1950 which requested the Governments of India and Pakistan to take all necessary precautions to ensure that their agreements regarding the "cease-fire" should continue to be fully observed. The Secretary-General therefore considered it necessary to continue during 1952 the organization established for the observance of the "cease-fire" agreements which remained in force. In order to cover the activities of the Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan in 1952, the Secretary-General requested a credit of \$696,500 under section 5, chapter I, of the 1952 budget, and suggested that the appropriation voted for section 33 of the 1952 budget should be reduced accordingly.

16. The Advisory Committee, in its seventh report of 1952 (A/2044), had suggested that substantial economies should result from a careful scrutiny of the expenditure for the Military Observer Group. It also suggested that before the proposed increase was implemented particular attention should be directed to the number of observers employed as well as the policy regarding replacements. The costly practice of periodically replacing field service personnel assigned to missions should be the subject of close study in view of the special purpose which the recruitment of such personnel was intended to serve. The Advisory Committee recommended for approval a reduced provision of \$680,000 for section 5, chapter I, of the 1952 budget, and a corresponding reduction in the appropriations already voted for section 33.

17. Mr. CHECHETKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation would vote against the appropriations requested for the Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, as it considered that experience had shown the uselessness of that Group. The Kashmir question could be settled if the Kashmir people were allowed to decide their own future without outside interference.

18. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that an amount of \$680,000 should be appropriated for the Military Observer Group under section 5, chapter I, of the 1952 budget, and that the appropriation already voted under section 33 should be reduced accordingly.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation was adopted by 41 votes to 5.*

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Security Council, fifth year, No. 12.*

SECTION 5, CHAPTER IV:  
UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL IN LIBYA

19. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that in his report on the United Nations Tribunal in Libya (A/C.5/482), the Secretary-General had submitted estimates for that Tribunal in 1952, since it was to continue as a self-contained establishment following the discontinuance in January 1952 of the United Nations Commission in Libya. He requested that, in order to cover the activities of the Tribunal, a credit in the amount of \$125,900 should be approved under section 5, chapter IV, of the 1952 budget, and that the appropriation already voted under section 33 should be reduced accordingly.

20. The Advisory Committee, in its eighth report of 1952 (A/2045), recommended, subject to certain observations regarding the replacement of mission staff and the payment of subsistence allowance, that the provision of \$125,900 should be approved under section 5, chapter IV, of the 1952 budget, and an appropriate reduction made in the amounts already voted for section 33.

21. Mr. KUTEINIKOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) pointed out that his delegation had voted against General Assembly resolution 388 (V), article X of which provided for the establishment of a United Nations Tribunal in Libya. As Libya had now become an independent State his delegation would vote against the appropriations requested.

22. Mr. van ASCH van WIJK (Netherlands), supporting the Advisory Committee's recommendations, emphasized the importance of the statements made in paragraphs 3 and 4 of that Committee's report. He asked whether the remarks in the Advisory Committee's report referred to the replacement of mission staff or to the replacement of staff at Headquarters.

23. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee's remarks referred to the replacement of mission staff.

24. Mr. CHECHETKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation would vote against the appropriations requested for the United Nations Tribunal in Libya as the activities of that Tribunal were incompatible with the existence of Libya as an independent State.

25. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the Secretary-General's request for a credit of \$125,900 be approved under section 5, chapter IV, of the 1952 budget, the appropriation voted for section 33 being reduced accordingly.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation was adopted by 41 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.*

SECTION 5, CHAPTER II: ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

26. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the Secretary-General's report on the Advisory Council for Somaliland under Italian Administration (A/C.5/479) in which credits were requested in the amounts of \$164,800 and \$3,000, respectively, under section 5, chapter II, and section 25, chapter V, of the 1952 budget, subject to an appropriate reduction in the funds already voted for section 33.

27. In its sixth report of 1952 (A/2043), the Advisory Committee emphasized that there was need for a further

study of the policy hitherto followed in the matter of subsistence allowance of mission personnel, and of temporary replacement of Headquarters staff assigned to missions, and recommended amounts of \$160,000 and \$3,000 respectively under section 5, chapter II, and section 25, chapter V, of the 1952 budget with a corresponding reduction in the funds already approved for section 33.

28. Mr. CHECHETKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he would vote against the appropriation requested for the Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland as the activities of that body were not helping the Somali people to achieve independence.

29. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that amounts of \$160,000 and \$3,000 be approved under section 5, chapter II, and section 25, chapter V, of the 1952 budget, and that a corresponding reduction should be made in section 33.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation was adopted by 41 votes to 5.*

Draft resolution concerning documentation  
(A/C.5/L.155)

30. Mr. LALL (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conference and General Services) expressed his gratitude to the Australian delegation and to other representatives who during the Fifth Committee's discussions on section 18 of the 1952 budget estimates (296th meeting) had taken the initiative to secure a reduction in the volume of documentation. As a result of views expressed the Secretariat had prepared a draft resolution (A/C.5/L.155) for the Committee's consideration. He was convinced that economy in documentation would be possible only if Member Governments, delegations and the Secretariat co-operated. The resolution would help the Secretary-General to exercise a wider measure of discretion with regard to documentation than had been possible hitherto. If economy in documentation was to be effected steps would have to be taken to prevent unnecessary documents being produced. Some control of the bulk of documentation would be necessary and restraint would have to be exercised by delegations as regards the number of copies requested.

31. Describing the various reasons for the increase in documentation, he pointed out that the Secretariat, in compliance with requests made by the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee, had reduced its internal distribution by one-third and had stopped all secondary distribution. Distribution sub-stations which acted as reference centres had been responsible for part of the economy achieved in documentation.

32. Delegations were now required to purchase additional copies of printed documents, but no such regulation existed in connexion with mimeographed documents. It was imperative that the free distribution of the latter should also be strictly controlled.

33. Mr. BRENNAN (Australia) recalled the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee at the time when the Fifth Committee had had section 1 of the 1952 budget under consideration and the statement of the Chairman of that Committee that he was certain that all Member States would co-operate in reducing the volume of documentation. He felt that that view was shared by all members of the Fifth Committee.

34. Referring to the draft resolution, he thought that the intention of paragraph 1 (a) (i) was that an organ should indicate what type of report it wished so as to make sure that the Secretary-General would not produce something which was not required.
35. As regards paragraph 2 of the operative part, he suggested that the word "Authorizes" should be replaced by "Requests" and that the word "Secretariat" at the end of that paragraph should be replaced by "United Nations". Paragraphs 2 and 3 might be combined.
36. Subject to those amendments, he fully supported the Secretary-General's draft resolution.
37. Mr. LALL (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conference and General Services) said that the Australian representative was correct in his assumption that the purpose of paragraph 1 (a) (i) was to avoid the preparation of detailed studies on lines not intended and to confine them to exactly what was required. He had no objection to the proposal to incorporate paragraph 2 (a) in paragraph 3 but thought it preferable to retain the word "Secretariat"; in fact it was a function of the Secretariat to carry out requests of United Nations organs.
38. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) welcomed the draft resolution and was in favour of the discipline it was intended to impose but would like an assurance that it would not affect the rules concerning the translation of documents established by the General Assembly.
39. Mr. LALL (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conference and General Services) assured the Belgian representative that the resolution would not alter the Secretariat's obligations concerning translation, which are defined by the existing regulations.
40. Mr. STANFIELD (Canada) also welcomed the initiative taken by the Australian delegation in sponsoring the draft resolution and thanked the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conference and General Services for his explanations. His delegation suggested that the Secretary-General might usefully be asked whether some space could be found in the Headquarters building for delegation lockers in which each delegation could keep its basic documentation. It was impossible for delegates to carry all the necessary documents about with them and that was possibly one of the reasons why supplementary requests for documents were made. The lockers could perhaps be rented to delegations at a nominal annual fee.
41. Mr. LALL (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conference and General Services) promised that the Secretary-General would look carefully into the Canadian delegation's suggestion.
42. Miss STRAUSS (United States of America) suggested the insertion of an additional paragraph at the end of paragraph 1 (a), to read as follows: "Indicating, at the time of adoption of resolutions which request studies by the Secretariat or invite governments to submit information, which studies or information are to be distributed as United Nations documents." Such a procedure might prevent the distribution of documentation which was sometimes voluminous and not essential to Member Governments.
43. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) felt that the draft resolution would be more effective if paragraph 1 (a) (i) were deleted, as in practice it would be very difficult to impose limitations upon the scope of studies. With that reservation he was in favour of the resolution.
44. Mr. ADARKAR (India) strongly supported the draft resolution. He agreed with the Australian representative's remarks concerning paragraph 1 (a) but felt that it was important to retain paragraph 1 (a) (i). There was no question of restricting the scope of studies; the intention was that any organ requesting a study should avoid wastage of Secretariat effort by carefully indicating its requirements. He suggested that economy might be effected at the printing stage if documents already cyclostyled were not printed until an attempt had been made to seek the approval of the organ concerned.
45. With reference to the Australian proposal concerning the position of paragraph 2 (a), he thought it should also apply to 2 (b) and 2 (c) and that the best solution would therefore be to combine paragraphs 2 and 3.
46. Mr. TRESERRA (Mexico), referring to paragraph 3 (c), hoped that provision could be made for the proposed consultations both at Headquarters and elsewhere, so as to cover occasions when the General Assembly was held outside New York.
47. Mr. LALL (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conference and General Services) felt that the Indian representative had already answered the Yugoslav representative's suggestion as he himself would have done. He promised to look into the possibilities of effecting economy by seeking the approval of the organs concerned before printing cyclostyled documents. He had no objection to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the resolution being redrafted to meet the suggestions of the Australian and Indian representatives.
48. In answer to the Mexican representative, he explained that, in the light of experience gained at the present General Assembly session, everything possible would be done to ensure that the documentation services would provide as useful facilities away from Headquarters as at Headquarters, but they were dependent upon the budget and the circumstances of each particular occasion.
49. He had no objection to incorporating the United States suggestion but thought that it was in fact covered by the existing procedure.
50. At the suggestion of the CHAIRMAN, Miss STRAUSS (United States of America) stated that she would not insist upon her proposal; she was satisfied to have it noted and to accept the assurance that the point it raised was covered by existing procedure.
51. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) agreed to withdraw his suggestion, in the light of the interpretations of paragraph 1 (a) (i) given by the Indian and Australian representatives and the Assistant Secretary-General's assurances.
52. The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee to approve the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/L.155, concerning the restriction of documentation, with paragraphs 2 and 3 combined, as suggested, to form a new paragraph 2.
53. At the request of Mr. CHECHETKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), the draft resolution was put to the vote.

*The amended draft resolution was approved by 41 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.*

**Adoption of the Rapporteur's draft reports  
(A/C.5/L.156, A/C.5/L.157)**

54. The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee to adopt the Rapporteur's draft report (A/C.5/L.156) on the annual report of the Joint Staff Pension Board.

*The Rapporteur's draft report (A/C.5/L.156) was adopted.*

55. The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee to adopt the Rapporteur's draft report on the United Nations Telecommunications System (A/C.5/L.157).

56. Mr. CHECHETKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked that the words "provision of communications facilities for," contained in paragraph 6 of the report on his objection, be replaced by "use by the United Nations Secretariat through the Field Service of communications facilities for the servicing of...".

57. The CHAIRMAN said that the Soviet representative's request would be complied with.

*The Rapporteur's draft report (A/C.5/L.157), as amended, was adopted.*

58. Mr. BRENNAN (Australia) drew attention to the fact that, the Fifth Committee having just approved document A/C.5/L.156, that entire document would be reissued for submission to the General Assembly, the only change being in its reference number. In the light of the Fifth Committee's recommendations concerning economy, he wondered whether such a process was really necessary.

59. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, as the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conference and General Services had been obliged to leave the meeting, the Australian representative might discuss the matter with the Secretariat and report to the Fifth Committee, which would undoubtedly be interested to hear the result of his inquiry.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.