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CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 38:	
Budget estimates for the financial year 1955 (<i>continued</i>)	135

Chairman: Mr. Pote SARASIN (Thailand).

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. M. I. Botha (Union of South Africa), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 38

Budget estimates for the financial year 1955 (A/2647 and Add.1, A/2688, A/2763 and Corr.1, A/2766; A/C.5/577, A/C.5/580, A/C.5/581, A/C.5/582 and Corr.1, A/C.5/587, A/C.5/600) (*continued*)

First reading (*continued*)

SECTION 8. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (*continued*)

1. Mr. RYBAR (Czechoslovakia) recalled that at previous sessions, both the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee itself had often pointed out that the existence of six sizable organs of the Secretariat, all active in approximately the same field, necessarily led to duplication of work, wasted effort, an excessive number of staff and high administrative costs. A major reorganization of the substantive departments had long been called for and specific recommendations had been made to that effect. The Secretary-General's decision to merge the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs had therefore been particularly welcome. The financial results so far, however, were disappointing: the 1955 budget for the unified Department showed a saving of a mere \$100,500 over the anticipated actual expenditure for 1954 and the 1955 figure remained greater than actual expenditure in 1953. It was clear, therefore, that the organizational changes were purely superficial and did not affect the internal working and structure of the Departments.

2. It was proposed to abolish thirty-two established posts in the course of 1955 but many of those had long been unfilled and the Advisory Committee had expressed the opinion, in its report to the eighth session (A/2403), that they might have been abolished even without the reorganizational scheme. The Advisory Committee had in past sessions drawn attention also to the high ratio of senior posts in those Departments, as it did again in paragraph 96 of its second report to the ninth session (A/2688). The very meagre economies achieved in the 1955 budget were the more surprising in view of the contraction of the Department's activities as a result of proposals¹ approved by the

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Eighteenth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 29, document E/2598.

Economic and Social Council by its resolution 557 (XVIII) at its eighteenth session, in connexion with which the Advisory Committee had expressed the hope in document A/2688, paragraph 97, that "much larger reductions" would be shown in the Secretary-General's final proposals.

3. It was evident, therefore, that additional economies could and should be achieved in the merged Department. That ought not to be difficult, since one post of Deputy Under-Secretary had been abolished, and with it the posts of his personal assistant and two secretaries. The expansion of staff in the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) should be effected largely by a transfer of staff from Headquarters.

4. The Czechoslovak delegation therefore supported the USSR proposal (452nd meeting) that the complete reorganization should be achieved in 1955 and that the appropriation for section 8 should be reduced by \$430,000.

5. Mr. SAPRU (India) said that his delegation was in general agreement with the Advisory Committee's views on the unification of the Departments of Economic and Social Affairs, which was experimental and was subject to review after one or two years. He welcomed the Secretary-General's assurance that the unified Department would devote its efforts increasingly to the promotion of the economic and social development of the under-developed countries.

6. He shared the Advisory Committee's concern regarding the disproportionately high ratio of senior posts still remaining in that Department and the large establishment proposed for the Offices of the Under-Secretary and Deputy Under-Secretaries, as also its doubts regarding the necessity for two Deputies in a department in which there were seventeen posts in the Director and Principal Officer category. He noted the Advisory Committee's expression of hope that the Secretary-General's final proposals for the budget of that Department would show larger reductions but he felt it important that the interests of economy should not be allowed to prejudice either the quality or the quantity of technical assistance offered to the areas which were economically or socially backward.

7. Mr. STRAUCH (Brazil) said that his delegation particularly welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to make the promotion of the economic development of the under-developed countries the overriding objective in the United Nations economic and social programme. The decision logically followed his intention to concentrate the work of the United Nations in that field on such areas as would yield, in terms of service and assistance to the Governments and peoples of the United Nations, a maximum return for the effort and resources expended. Such a policy was likely to contribute more than anything else to giving the reorganization process

a dynamic character and to fashioning the Secretariat into a useful tool in the service of Member States.

8. The representative of France had expressed the fear (452nd meeting) that the new unified Department of Economic and Social Affairs might give undue attention to economic at the expense of social problems. His delegation did not share those misgivings but in any case the United Nations could not do everything at once, and the economic problems of the underdeveloped countries were the most pressing in the world today. Moreover, most social problems were economic in origin and those which were not were usually peculiar to the more highly developed countries.

9. His delegation would urge the Secretary-General to proceed rapidly with the reorganization of the Secretariat along the lines he had proposed, so that the advantages of a closer integration of economic and social activities might be felt at the earliest possible date.

10. The Brazilian delegation would support the revised appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee.

11. Mr. LEYNEN (Belgium) recalled the French representative's statement at the 452nd meeting concerning the help which might be given to the Secretariat by universities. Such assistance would be valuable in relieving the Secretariat of purely academic work and obviating excessive expenditure, provided the services of universities throughout the world were called upon, to avoid any possibilities of bias.

12. Mr. CLOUGH (United Kingdom) regretted that the Committee had not had the benefit of the Advisory Committee's expert comments on the final manning table proposed by the Survey Group for the reorganized Secretariat. Such comments would have assisted discussion of the 1955 estimates even though the Survey Group target was necessarily tentative and the 1955 establishment represented but a transitional phase.

13. While prepared to support the revised estimate given in document A/C.5/600, the United Kingdom delegation did not wish its vote to be construed as unqualified approval of the Survey Group's proposals. In that connexion, he drew attention to the Advisory Committee's comments on the high ratio of senior posts in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and expressed the hope that steps would be taken to correct that situation.

14. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) said that his delegation was prepared to support the Advisory Committee's recommendations, while endorsing its hope for larger reductions in the Department's budget and the reservations expressed in paragraph 96 of its report (A/2688). His Government was in general agreement with the Secretary-General's plans as approved by the Economic and Social Council, on the understanding that the revision of programmes would not have the effect of withdrawing efforts from certain penal and penitentiary questions in connexion with which the United Nations had assumed definite responsibilities some years earlier.

15. Mr. VAN ASCH VAN WIJCK (Netherlands) associated himself with the hope expressed by the French representative at the 452nd meeting that the attention devoted to economic problems and technical

assistance would not be to the detriment of the Secretariat's activities in the social field. The social section of the Department should be composed of officers of high technical ability and expert knowledge.

16. Mr. GREEN (Secretariat), replying to the questions the representative of Argentina had asked at the previous meeting, said that the Economic and Social Council had by its resolution 533 (XVIII) endorsed the Secretary-General's plan² to appoint a group of experts to work on the problem of water resources and an interagency meeting had been held. As there was much preparatory work to be done before the experts could meet, they might not start work before 1956, in which case any funds appropriated in the 1955 budget would be saved in that year.

17. Little work had been done on the subject of statistical sampling since the abolition of the Sub-Commission on that topic, for there was no senior officer in the Secretariat qualified to continue it. In the current budget it was proposed to create a post of senior statistical officer with the intention that he should undertake work in that field. It was thought that it would be sufficient to convene a group of experts once every three years in order to keep the Department fully informed on the latest techniques.

18. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the USSR proposal for a reduction of \$430,000 in the appropriation proposed for section 8 and the full implementation in 1955 of the reorganization plan for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The proposal was rejected by 38 votes to 5.

19. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the revised figure of \$3,687,000 for section 8, which represented the figures recommended by the Advisory Committee, as adjusted by the decision on salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries and officials of an equivalent rank.

The recommendation was approved on first reading by 38 votes to 5.

SECTION 9: DEPARTMENT OF TRUSTEESHIP AND INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

20. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the revised estimate of \$859,200 for section 9 (A/C.5/600), which reflected the financial implications of the Fifth Committee's decision (449th meeting) on the salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries or officials of an equivalent rank.

21. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) explained that the reduction of \$8,500 in the estimates for section 9 consisted of a reduction of \$5,000 in the gross salary and \$3,500 in the allowance attaching to the posts in question.

22. Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq) paid a special tribute to the staff of the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, with whose work he had become intimately acquainted while serving as his country's representative on the Fourth Committee. The Department's work, governed as it was by provisions embodied in the Charter, was a tangible expression of the concept of the international community's responsibility for the welfare of the dependent peoples of the world and might one day become the

² *Ibid.*, agenda item 4, E/2603.

United Nations' most outstanding example of successful international co-operation.

23. Under the Secretary-General's reorganization scheme it was proposed ultimately to reduce the number of senior posts in the Department to fifteen and as an interim step a reduction from eighteen to seventeen senior posts was recommended for 1955. He would like the Secretary-General's assurance that the reduction would not jeopardize the valuable work done by the Department.

24. Mr. KULAGA (Poland) said that the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories had an important role and it was vital that its work should be organized in a rational manner. That did not mean, however, that a large number of staff was necessary; his delegation considered that all twenty-four, and not ten only, of the posts to be eliminated should be abolished in 1955. On that basis he proposed that the appropriation requested for section 9 should be reduced by \$115,000.

25. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) said that his delegation was always in sympathy with efforts to reduce the total budget but that it was not prepared to vote for reductions without careful thought and study. He would therefore appreciate it if the Polish, Czechoslovak, USSR and other delegations would circulate detailed explanations of the changes they proposed, so as to enable other delegations to assess their merit.

26. Mr. SAPRU (India) said that his delegation felt that the work of the Department was vital to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It was opposed to further reductions in the appropriation for that section and would therefore vote in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

27. Mr. HOO (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories) expressed appreciation of the tribute paid to the Department by the representative of Iraq. In answer to his question, he would say that the present number of staff in the Department was the minimum necessary to fulfil the functions devolving upon it as a result of decisions of the General Assembly, the Trusteeship Council and other bodies. If its tasks were to increase as a result of fresh decisions of United Nations organs, difficulties might arise.

28. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Polish proposal to reduce the appropriation for section 9 by \$115,000.

The proposal was rejected by 38 votes to 5.

29. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the revised figure of \$859,200 for section 9, which represented the figure recommended by the Advisory Committee, as adjusted by the decision on salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries or officials of an equivalent rank.

The recommendation was approved on first reading by 38 votes to 5.

SECTION 10. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

30. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Advisory Committee had recommended an appropriation of \$2,542,500 for section 10 which had been reduced to \$2,534,000 as the result of the Fifth Committee's decisions on the questions of salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries or officials of an equivalent rank.

31. Mr. CAFIERO (Argentina) said that his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's statement on page 47 of the 1955 budget estimates (A/2647) that efforts would be made to stimulate outside production of information materials without cost to the United Nations and to use more extensively self-liquidating and outside contractual arrangements in order to compensate for the reduction in establishment of the Department.

32. He supported the statement in paragraph 103 of the Advisory Committee's second report (A/2688) but would prefer to leave the question of the distribution of staff, mentioned in paragraph 106, to the Secretary-General's discretion. He agreed with the Advisory Committee on the question of the appropriate equilibrium to be maintained between the functions of the Department of Public Information and other United Nations activities.

33. Recalling the United States proposal, at the eighteenth session of the Economic and Social Council,³ regarding the centralization and rationalization of the public information services of the United Nations and specialized agencies and the need for co-ordinating such activities, he hoped that the Secretary-General would submit specific proposals on that question at a later date.

34. The sum requested for overtime and night differential in section 10 seemed excessive and he shared the Advisory Committee's doubts concerning the provision under chapter II (A/2688, paragraph 107). He suggested that economies might be effected in the estimated amount for photographic supplies and services by reducing purchases from outside photographers. He would like to know why the 1955 estimates gave no figure for receipts from the sale of photographs.

35. He noted that no details were given of regional services connected with the film programme and that despite the fact that motion picture services had been increased there appeared to be little change in the income from them. With regard to radio services, he noted that the programme in Arabic had been reduced, but that broadcasts in other Near-Eastern languages had been increased.

36. Mr. KULAGA (Poland) recalled that at earlier sessions of the Fifth Committee there had been recommendations that the work of the Department of Public Information should be subordinated to the work of the United Nations in the political, economic and social fields. The yearly criticism of the Department's excessive budget and disproportionately large staff should also be borne in mind. The effective reorganization of the Department was an urgent and serious matter. He could not share the Survey Group's opinion that reorganization should take place over a period of years and he formally proposed that it should be completed in 1955. The Secretary-General's suggestion that twenty-four posts should be abolished should be put into effect in 1955, making a further saving of \$150,000. A detailed analysis of the Survey Group's report showed that there were many other fields in which savings could be made.

37. Taking up the matter in detail, Mr. Kulaga pointed out that about \$5 million were still earmarked for information, a percentage higher than that of 1954.

³ *Ibid.*, 806th meeting.

There were still too many top echelon posts in comparison with lower grades. The reorganization had not changed the number of top-ranking posts.

38. Therefore Mr. Kulaga proposed a reduction of \$70,000, to be added to the reduction proposed by the Advisory Committee. This would bring to \$220,000 the total of reductions proposed by the Polish delegation to be applied to the estimates for information.

39. Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the Polish representative's proposal of a reduction of \$220,000 in the 1955 budget estimates of the Department of Public Information.

40. Mr. RAO (India) said that his delegation attached great importance to the activities of the Department of Public Information, whose function it was to prepare men's minds to receive, understand and accept the principles and purposes of the United Nations. The Indian delegation therefore supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that a system of priorities should be established and that a more decentralized public information system should be set up. The uneducated peoples must be educated and the indifference or ignorance of the educated classes must be overcome. Regional languages should be studied and the local traditions of folklore, street drama, ballads and storytelling should be fully exploited in educating the masses in the Asian, Middle Eastern and Latin-American countries. The Indian Government's broadcasting services could be utilized by the Department of Public Information. He hoped that Hindi, which was recognized as the official language of India, would soon be used in the Department's broadcasting services.

41. The Department was spending a great deal on photographic, radio and television services; savings might be effected if various national agencies were used.

42. Local men of character and ability should be recruited for posts in the various Information Centres. The status and functions of the Directors of the Information Centres should be clearly defined *vis-à-vis* the duties of representatives of specialized agencies working in the same area.

43. Mr. HEMSLEY (Canada), supporting the Advisory Committee's recommendation, noted that the Secretary-General intended to use "more extensively self-liquidating and outside contractual arrangements in order to compensate for reduction in establishment".

44. He had been interested to hear the Secretary-General's reply at the 443rd meeting (A/C.5/591) to the Indian representative's questions concerning the guided tour service at United Nations Headquarters and he would like the Secretary-General's assurance that the important function of disseminating information regarding the United Nations would be carried out strictly under United Nations supervision. He hoped that principle would be borne in mind when the contemplated outside contractual arrangements were made.

45. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) asked the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for clarification of the statement in paragraph 107 of the Advisory Committee's second report that the estimate for section 10 did "not reflect the extensive television activities of the United Nations, which, though financed for the most part on a self-liquidating basis, should be taken into account in determining the proportion of total effort and resources to be concentrated on information activities as a whole."

46. He expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the practical working relationship established between the Department of Public Information and the Danish State Broadcasting System. He also mentioned the fruitful collaboration between the Copenhagen Information Centre and the Danish private organizations and public authorities interested in the United Nations. It had been possible to supplement the limited number of publications issued in Danish by the Department of Public Information by other publications paid for by Danish funds.

47. Mr. BLANCO (Cuba) observed that the large reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee in 1955 budget estimates would inevitably lead to a restriction of certain existing services and would require a redistribution of posts and functions within the Department. His delegation supported that recommendation, on the understanding that the Secretary-General had not raised any objection to the proposed reductions, but it would oppose any further reductions in the budget of that Department, which rendered important services.

48. Mr. MELO LECAROS (Chile) emphasized the great importance his Government attached to the Department of Public Information. Supporting the Cuban representative's statement, he asked how the reduction proposed by the Advisory Committee would affect the Department's work.

49. Mr. HALL (speaking on behalf of the Advisory Committee) informed the Danish representative that the statement in paragraph 107 to which he had referred was amplified in paragraph 251. Although television activities were operated principally on a self-liquidating basis and were financed in part by the payments made by outside networks and stations—they had amounted to approximately \$36,000 in 1953—certain items of expenditure in connexion with television arose at various points in the budget, namely: \$18,000 at item 6 B of chapter II of section 10; \$14,000 under chapter IV (i) and \$39,000 under chapter IV (ii) (c) of section 16 and \$4,000 under chapter I (iii) of section 17. The Advisory Committee's recommendation was that from 1956 onwards the full details of television operations should be shown together in section 10, with a corresponding entry in the estimates of miscellaneous income.

50. Mr. COHEN (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information), replying to the Argentine representative's questions, said that the appropriation for overtime and night differential pay had been requested in connexion with the necessary night broadcasting programmes; any reduction in that appropriation would affect the broadcasting services.

51. With regard to the sale of photographs, it had been hoped that there would be a large demand for photographs taken by staff photographers, but the demand had unfortunately been so poor that it had not justified the salary of a United Nations staff photographer and photographs were now taken by outside photographers. The income from motion pictures had not increased, since such films were distributed in the under-developed areas and produced no revenue. He did not think that the Department should change its policy of bringing more visual information to areas of the

world where that form of information medium was so effective.

52. Greater emphasis was now being placed on the co-ordination of information services, to which the United States representative had drawn attention at the eighteenth session of the Economic and Social Council. The Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination were studying the question and a report would be submitted to the Council's forthcoming session. The United Nations was responsible for conducting a general information service covering its own work and that of the specialized agencies, while each specialized agency was primarily responsible for specialized information within its own sphere of competence. Arrangements had been made between the United Nations and the specialized agencies to share technical facilities and equipment.

53. He assured the Indian representative that the lack of broadcasts in Hindi had been due solely to the difficulty of recruiting an official to conduct such broadcasts. Several candidates had come forward, however, and it was hoped to start broadcasting in Hindi in 1955.

54. Replying to the representative of Chile, he said that the reductions proposed would necessitate some restrictions on certain services which, however, were not of a high priority.

55. Replying to the Canadian representative, he said that there was no danger that outside contractual arrangements regarding information media would run counter to Department's policy of absolute impartiality and objectivity.

56. Replying to questions by Mr. H. F. COOPER (Liberia) and Mr. CLOUGH (United Kingdom) regarding the guided tour service, Mr. COHEN (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information) said that it was run by a non-governmental organization which devoted its efforts to disseminating knowledge about the United Nations. The net annual income received from the service was about \$240,000. The Secretary-General was preparing a proposal, as part of his general reorganization plan, that the guided tours service should be run by the Secretariat. Such a proposal would naturally be submitted to the Fifth Committee before it was put into effect.

57. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Polish representative's proposal that the reorganization of the Department of Public Information should be carried out in 1955 and that the estimates for section 10 should be reduced by \$220,000.

The proposal was rejected by 37 votes to 5.

58. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the revised figure of \$2,534,000 for section 10, which represented the figure recommended by the Advisory Committee as adjusted by the decision on salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries and officials of an equivalent rank.

The recommendation was approved on first reading by 38 votes to 5.

SECTION 11. DEPARTMENT OF CONFERENCE SERVICES

59. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the revised estimate of \$6,181,300 for section 11 (A/C.5/600).

60. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) said that the increase of \$13,000 in the estimate for section 11 re-

sulted from the inclusion of a provision for the post of Deputy Under-Secretary. The salary of \$18,000 for that post, together with the proposed allowance of \$3,500, made an increase of \$21,500, which was offset by the reduction of \$5,000 in the gross salary and of \$3,500 in the allowance attaching to the post of Under-Secretary.

61. Mr. GANEM (France) paid a tribute to the fine work of Mr. Lall, the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conference and General Services, who was retiring from his post. An able and devoted servant of the United Nations, he represented the highest type of international public official and his wisdom and administrative ability had ensured the smooth functioning of the Department for many years. His delegation regretted the departure of so valuable an officer and extended its best wishes to Mr. Lall for his future success.

62. Turning to the budget estimates, he pointed out that during the general discussion his delegation had expressed reservations on the need for a Deputy Under-Secretary in the new Department of Conference Services. Its doubts on that point had not been allayed. In view, however, of the Secretary-General's statement that he would not fill the post until he had determined, through prior consultation with the Under-Secretary and the Advisory Committee, that it was absolutely necessary, the French delegation would vote for the revised figure recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 11. He hoped that the Rapporteur would record the Secretary-General's statement in the Committee's report.

63. Mr. SAPRU (India) associated himself with the tribute paid to the retiring Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conference and General Services. In the discharge of his functions with the United Nations Mr. Lall had displayed the devotion to duty which he had shown in the service of his own Government, a devotion to which Mr. Sapru could testify from personal experience. By his dedication and zeal, Mr. Lall had reflected great credit on his own country.

64. Turning to the budget estimates, he said that his delegation would support the revised figure recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 11.

65. Mr. CAFIERO (Argentina) associated his delegation with the tributes paid to Mr. Lall by the representatives of France and India.

66. He noted that it was proposed to reduce the total number of posts in the Department by thirty-nine, seven of which would apply to the Language Service, the Spanish Section losing four posts. He would like the Assistant Secretary-General's assurance that the reduction would not affect the services available in the Spanish language.

67. He noted that in paragraph 114 of its report (A/2688) the Advisory Committee referred to arrears of translation into the Spanish language; in that connexion he reminded the Committee that at the eighth session of the General Assembly the Australian and Swedish delegations had asked (389th meeting) that delegations should be given information, where appropriate, on the backlog of work in their respective languages, so that they could decide what material was of no further importance and need not be translated. The Committee

had been told in 1953 that arrears of translation would be liquidated during 1954; apparently they had not been, for the number of pages outstanding remained virtually unchanged. That being so, he could not understand the elimination of four posts. Moreover, there were at present eleven vacancies in the Spanish section and he wondered what were the difficulties of recruitment to which the Advisory Committee referred.

68. He endorsed the Advisory Committee's remark in paragraph 116 of its report that a review of the procedures and supervision in the language sections would help to increase output and to improve the quality of the work. He was glad to note that a greater volume of material was now printed within the Reproduction Section and hoped that in time it would prove possible to print all such material internally.

69. Mr. CHERNYSCHENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that he attached great importance to the Department of Conferences and General Services and was highly appreciative of the work of its staff. The budget estimates for 1955 for section 11 were, however, in excess of the 1953 figure and he considered that they should be reduced. Under the re-organization scheme, the Department would have too many senior posts, for most of the reductions in the staff had been made at the lower levels. He disagreed with the proposal to transfer one post of Deputy Under-Secretary from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to the Department of Conference Services and supported the Advisory Committee's view that the post was unnecessary. Even if the Under-Secretary were obliged to be away from Headquarters for any reason, his functions could be performed temporarily by a Director or by the Under-Secretary of some other department. It was further proposed to establish one new senior and one new first-officer post in the Language Service and increases were proposed in the General Service category. Instead of accepting those proposals, the Committee should recommend, in addition to the proposed reduction of thirty-nine posts, the elimination of the post of Deputy Under-Secretary, of one first-officer post in the Language Service and of one General Service post, which would produce savings in the nature of \$43,500. In addition, the Committee should note that the salaries of certain officials had been increased as compared with 1954: the Director of the Language Service was a case in point.

70. In 1953, the Advisory Committee had drawn attention to the high level of expenditure on United Nations documentation. It was now recommending a cut of \$65,000 in the estimates for official records and publications, which should produce consequential savings in translation and publishing expenditure, as also in the number of posts.

71. In paragraph 116 of its report the Advisory Committee pointed out that the operations of the Language Service had certain defects which could be eliminated by a better organization of the work. That would result in output of a higher quality at less cost and might lead to savings in expenditure on overtime and night differential.

72. For those reasons he proposed that the revised appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 11 should be further reduced by \$75,000, \$43,500 of which should be realized through the elimination of three posts and the rest distributed at the Secretary-General's discretion. The remaining appro-

priation of \$6,106,300 should be ample to meet the needs of the Department.

73. Mr. LIU Yu-wan (China) was concerned about the backlog of Chinese translation. Although the Secretary-General stated in his report that the liquidation of the backlog was progressing at a steady rate each year, the figures given by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 113 of its report showed the rate of progress in the Chinese arrears to be so slow that it could hardly be described as "steady". It was planned to establish sixty-eight posts in the Chinese section for 1955. His delegation had no objection to that figure—which represented a reduction of four as compared with 1954—in view of the Secretary-General's extensive efforts to retrench. It was essential, however, that those sixty-eight staff members should be retained in the Chinese section and not be seconded elsewhere. As it was, two of the sixty-eight posts had never been filled and the post of one official who had resigned remained vacant, while one staff member had been detached on loan to the Legal Department. Every post should be filled and the services of the staff should be devoted entirely to the work of the section.

74. He noted with satisfaction that under the re-organization plan the functions of translation and documents control would be more closely linked. In the past the translation of documents had frequently been held up owing to delays in documents control: he had been informed, for example, that in May 1954 little of the backlog had been forwarded to the Chinese section for translation. His delegation was appreciative of the excellent co-operation it had received from that section and hoped that further progress could be made in solving the serious problem of arrears of translation. He would like to hear when the Secretariat thought the backlog would be cleared up.

75. Mr. RYBAR (Czechoslovakia) supported the Byelorussian proposal of a further reduction of \$75,000 in the appropriation for section 11.

76. Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) associated himself with the French representative's comments on the retirement of the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conferences and General Services. His delegation regretted that Mr. Lall was leaving and extended him every wish for his success in his future activity.

77. The USSR delegation would support the Byelorussian proposal of a further reduction of \$75,000 in the appropriation for section 11.

78. Mr. LALL (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conference Services) expressed his appreciation of the kind remarks and good wishes which had been extended to him. He had enjoyed his service with the United Nations and if the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee had at times been critical of the Departments' work theirs had been friendly criticisms which had served truly to encourage the staff to redouble its efforts.

79. During his term of office there had been a constant process of streamlining, although the Department had had to exercise caution in its efforts to economize, in order to avoid the risk of a breakdown in its essential services. The Secretary-General had not yet taken into account the savings which might accrue as a result of the review of the activities of the substantive

Departments, the effects of which would not be felt for some time. Without a contraction of work, however, further economies in his Department would not be possible.

80. The question of the arrears of translation had been considered in detail by the Advisory Committee. There had been some difficulty in recruiting French and Spanish translators; while the matter had been settled satisfactorily as far as the French section was concerned, there were still eight vacancies in the Spanish section, despite the efforts of the Bureau of Personnel to find suitable candidates. If all those posts could be filled, the Spanish backlog could be eliminated at the rate of 6,000 pages a year and would no longer constitute a problem after 1956.

81. In the Chinese section, there would be 21,000 pages of backlog remaining at the end of 1954: at the rate of 5,000 per annum, the arrears would not be liquidated until 1958. Considering that rate of progress to be unsatisfactory, he had experimented with means of increasing the section's output, chiefly by the use of mechanical dictating equipment, and encouraging results had been achieved. It might be possible by that system to increase the output by 25 per cent; if so, an increase in the number of calligraphers might become necessary. There was also the possibility of outside translation under contract, but serious consideration had not yet been given to that solution in view of the success of the experiment with dictating equipment.

82. He had noted the Advisory Committee's comments in paragraph 116 of its report. Inasmuch as none of the five official languages was his mother tongue, he was obliged to rely on linguistic experts and on the delegations to judge of the quality of the translations. His experts stated that the level was quite good and that it had been improving; delegations, too, though sometimes critical of a particular document, had praised the quality and accuracy of the translations as a whole. He assured the Committee that every effort would be made to improve the quality of the work.

83. The Department kept a close watch on output. On an average, a translator in the English, French or Spanish section produced 1,500 mimeographed pages of translation a year, as compared with 1,200 in the

Russian and 750 in the Chinese section. Those figures covered translations of varying degrees of difficulty and were affected by time lost owing to variations in the conference pattern. While he was aware of the difficulty of translating and reproducing documents in Chinese, he still felt that the Chinese section's output was too low but he considered the production figures of the other sections to be fairly satisfactory.

84. It had been suggested that a reduction in the budget estimates for printing should produce consequential savings in the Language Service. That argument did not hold true, for a substantial part of the savings was achieved by placing printing orders in soft currency areas. In June 1955, 30 per cent of the United Nations printing would be done in those areas as compared with 18 per cent in 1954. The reduction in cost, therefore, did not necessarily imply a reduction in the volume of printing.

85. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Byelorussian proposal of a further reduction of \$75,000 in the Advisory Committee's revised recommendation for section 11, \$43,500 to be realized through the elimination of three posts, including that of Deputy Under-Secretary, and the remainder to be applied at the Secretary-General's discretion.

The proposal was rejected by 33 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

86. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the revised figure of \$6,181,300 for section 11, which represented the figure recommended by the Advisory Committee as adjusted by the Committee's decision on salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries or officials of an equivalent rank and the Secretary-General's proposal concerning the post of Deputy Under-Secretary for the Department of Conference Services.

The recommendation was approved on first reading by 34 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

87. The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the Committee as a whole, thanked Mr. Lall for his devoted service to the United Nations and wished him every success in his future career.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.