

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Chairman: Brigadier-General Carlos P. ROMULO (Philippines)

Financial implications of the draft resolution proposed by the First Committee concerning item 73 of the agenda (A/2387)

1. The CHAIRMAN explained that the General Assembly had had before it at its 427th meeting a report of the First Committee on the question of impartial investigation of charges of use by United Nations Forces of bacteriological warfare (A/2384) and a report (A/2387) prepared by the Secretary-General on the financial implications of the resolution adopted by that Committee. In view of the provisions of rule 152 of the rules of procedure it had been decided that action on the First Committee's report should be deferred until the Fifth Committee had considered the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General for the information of the General Assembly.

2. If the resolution as recommended by the First Committee was adopted and implemented, expenditure of about \$65,500 might be anticipated. The budget as approved for 1953 would not, however, be affected, since that expenditure would be met out of the Working Capital Fund under the provision of paragraph (a) of General Assembly resolution 675 (VII).

3. Normally, the Fifth Committee would first seek the advice and recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. That was, unfortunately, impracticable, since the Advisory Committee was not in session and could not be convened in the short time available. The Fifth Committee was, however, master of its own procedure, and, while it was a matter of regret that it did not have the advice and assistance of the Advisory Committee, on which it had come to rely so heavily, it could undoubtedly be trusted to furnish the General Assembly, without delay, with the information requested.

4. Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reminded the Committee that it had been the USSR delegation which had raised the question of prior consultation of the Fifth Committee in the plenary meeting, so that normal procedure would be followed and no undesirable precedent set. The USSR delegation had voted against the First Committee's resolution because it had believed that the proposed commission

of investigation would be unsatisfactory without the participation of the countries which had originally laid the complaint, the People's Republic of China and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. Consequently, he would vote against the allocation of funds for such an undesirable purpose.

5. Mr. FAHMY (Egypt) said that his delegation had voted for the resolution adopted by the First Committee but would abstain in the forthcoming vote, because it believed that the Fifth Committee could not properly take action without a prior recommendation by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

6. Mr. VAVRICKA (Czechoslovakia) said that he would vote against the adoption of the allocation because, as his delegation had explained in voting against the First Committee's resolution, the failure to hear the countries bringing the complaint was, in its view, a violation of Articles 32 and 35, paragraph 2, of the Charter.

7. Mr. BOTHA (Union of South Africa) said that his delegation attached great importance to the Advisory Committee's recommendations. Yet, if the Committee took a decision without submitting the matter to the Advisory Committee for prior examination, it would not be acting out of order and he was prepared to vote on an appropriate draft resolution forthwith. As the proposed commission would not be constituted before the May session of the Advisory Committee, the latter might well have an opportunity of considering the estimated expenditure before the Secretary-General appointed the staff.

8. In regard to paragraph 3 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/2387), he felt that one post could be eliminated by combining the functions of the Principal Secretary with those of either the Political Affairs Officer or the Administrative and Finance Officer.

9. Mr. PRICE (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services) pointed out that the estimate in the Secretary-General's report was tentative and therefore subject to modification. The views of the commission, once organized, would be taken fully into account.

10. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) agreed with the South African representative's remarks concerning the proposed staff. He felt that the Principal Secretary could also undertake the responsibilities of the Political Affairs Officer without impairing the commission's work. It was desirable to have a separate Administrative and Finance Officer.

11. With reference to the South African representative's observation on the Advisory Committee, he doubted whether it would be advisable for the Committee to adopt a decision at the current meeting and then to present the Advisory Committee in May with a *fait accompli*. The Fifth Committee should either take an immediate decision because of the urgency of the question and because it was so authorized, or defer a decision pending a recommendation by the Advisory Committee.

12. Mr. BOTHA (Union of South Africa) explained that he had meant that the Committee could approve the tentative estimate submitted and that the Advisory Committee could consider the matter before the commission was appointed.

13. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Rapporteur would take note of the suggestions made.

14. He then put the following proposal to the vote:

(i) That, on the basis of the assumptions set forth in the report of the Secretary-General (A/2387), adoption of the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee is expected to involve expenditure of the order of \$65,500 for temporary assistance, travel and subsistence of members and staff, local transportation and miscellaneous supplies and services;

(ii) That such expenditure should be financed from the Working Capital Fund under the provision of paragraph (a) of General Assembly resolution 675 (VII) relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses;

(iii) That the Rapporteur be authorized to inform the General Assembly accordingly.

The proposal was adopted by 32 votes to 5, with 4 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.