



Thursday, 15 October 1953,  
at 10.45 a.m.

**New York**

**C O N T E N T S**

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**Chairman:** Mr. Awni KHALIDY (Iraq).

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1954  
(A/2383 and Add.1, A/2403) (*continued*)**

[Item 39]\*

**First reading (*continued*)**

**SECTION 1. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, COMMISSIONS  
AND COMMITTEES**

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the Advisory Committee's recommendation for section 1 should be read subject to the comment made in paragraph 57 of its report (A/2403) that the General Assembly might wish to review the question of the payment of honoraria to the Chairman and five rapporteurs of the International Law Commission (ILC). A similar question arose in connexion with the Economic and Social Council's resolution 505 F III (XVI) on the remuneration of members of the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Drug Supervisory Body, which was item 68 on the agenda of the General Assembly and had been referred to the Fifth Committee. The Secretary-General had submitted a report (A/2509) on this item. He would suggest that the Committee should discuss the two questions, together in connexion with the pertinent report to be submitted by the Advisory Committee.

2. The appropriation voted for section 1 in first reading would also require revision if ILC's request to hold its 1953 session in Geneva was approved.

3. Mr. CAFIERO (Argentina) pointed out that the Sixth Committee had not yet reached any conclusions on the question of limiting the duration of regular sessions of the General Assembly and that for the time being therefore large-scale reductions were not feasible. In the circumstances, he would merely call attention to two items in section 1 of the Budget Estimates (A/2383) which caused his delegation special concern. The first was the provision requested for temporary assistance which, despite the elimination of forty posts, showed no reduction over 1953. The General Assembly was, however, a regular event and its requirements were well-known. The Secretary-General should therefore be in a position to assess the temporary assistance needed on the basis of experience

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

and to make staff available by interdepartmental transfers. The second item was the question of the payment of honoraria to the Chairman and rapporteurs of ILC, a question to be decided by the Fifth Committee. Before his delegation took a firm stand on that question it would like to receive fuller information concerning the budgetary implications.

4. Mr. KIA (Iran) said that the Special Committee on Measures to Limit the Duration of Regular Sessions of the General Assembly had been informed (A/AC.69/SR.9) that the Assembly usually lost the equivalent in working time of 114 meetings or fourteen working days, which was bound to involve a substantial waste of funds. Those figures, approximate though they might be, made it clear that large savings could be secured by stricter adherence to the time-table of meetings. Since the Sixth Committee had reached no conclusions on the Special Committee's report he would request that a reference to his statement should be included in the Rapporteur's report.

5. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) agreed that, although the question of limiting the duration of Assembly sessions was being discussed elsewhere, it would be useful for the Committee's report to indicate that, in the opinion of delegations, the Assembly's present working methods were extremely cumbersome and to express the hope that that opinion would be borne in mind in connexion with any proposal for reorganization.

6. Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the appropriation requested for 1954 was higher than in 1953, particularly large amounts being requested for temporary assistance, night differential and overtime. In document A/2403, paragraph 37, the Advisory Committee recommended that expenditure on temporary assistance should be reduced to the minimum by the extensive use of interdepartmental transfers during peak periods. In conformity with that recommendation it suggested in paragraph 56 of its report that a significant economy could be achieved in temporary assistance in the case of certain categories of staff and recommended a reduction of \$35,000. While supporting that recommendation the USSR delegation considered that it did not go far enough and did not fully reflect the Advisory Committee's conclusions. It therefore proposed a further reduction of \$40,000.

7. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel), referring to section 1, chapter IV, recalled that in the report on its fifth session (A/2456) ILC had recommended that its 1954 session be held at Geneva rather than in New York on the ground that general conditions, and in particular library facilities, at Geneva were more conducive to efficiency in the kind of work the Commission had to perform. He would express no opinion on the validity of that argument but would merely point out that if the Fifth Committee considered itself bound, and rightly so, to secure the maximum use of a Headquarters

designed to meet the needs of all United Nations bodies, it should not only decide where meetings should take place, but should also consider whether Headquarters was equipped with the necessary facilities to make it, if not more desirable, at least as advantageous and convenient to hold sessions there as elsewhere. The latter consideration should also be borne in mind in the examination of other sections of the budget which had a bearing on the suitability of Headquarters as a meeting place. In that examination, both the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee should have regard to the need, first, to create facilities at Headquarters which would encourage independent or semi-independent bodies to elect to meet at Headquarters, and secondly, to continue to impress on such bodies the advantages, not only for the budget but also for the better co-ordination of the United Nations activities, of holding sessions at Headquarters.

8. He requested that his observations should be included in the Rapporteur's report.

9. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the USSR proposal for a further reduction of \$40,000 in the budget estimates for section 1, over and above the \$35,000 reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee.

*The USSR proposal was rejected by 39 votes to 5.*

10. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$533,600 for section 1, subject to whatever decisions might later be taken on the subject of the honoraria of representatives of United Nations bodies and on the ILC meeting place for 1954.

*The recommendation was unanimously approved.*

## SECTION 2. THE SECURITY COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

11. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that section 2 was included *pro forma* in the budget to provide for the possibility of the Security Council meeting away from Headquarters. No financial provision was requested.

*Section 2 was approved unanimously.*

## SECTION 4. THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

12. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the estimate of \$50,000 to cover the expense of the 1954 visiting mission was a provisional figure, since the arrangements and itinerary of the visiting mission had not yet been decided.

13. He asked the Principal Director of the Bureau of Finance to give the Committee any further information that was available on the subject.

14. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) said that the situation was still the same as when the budget estimates for 1954 had been drawn up: the Trusteeship Council had not yet decided upon the itinerary for its 1954 visiting mission, nor was it expected to do so before the end of the current session of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General had therefore proposed a token appropriation of \$50,000, which earlier experience had proved to be approximately the sum needed, on the understanding that if that sum was

insufficient to cover the itinerary finally decided upon by the Trusteeship Council a supplementary estimate would be submitted to the Advisory Committee with a request either for a transfer of funds or for additional funds under the heading of unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

15. Mr. ASHA (Syria) said that, in view of the importance the Trusteeship Council attached to its visiting missions, his delegation was prepared to support the Advisory Committee's recommendation. He hoped, however, that if the sum of \$50,000 proved inadequate, the Secretary-General would find means of providing the extra sum by transferring it from another heading rather than requesting additional funds.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$50,000 for section 4 was unanimously approved.*

## SECTION 17. COMMON STAFF COSTS

16. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the question of a grant to the United Nations International School should be held over for a few days, for he understood that the Secretary-General and also the Australian representative, who was unable to attend the present meeting, wished to comment on the subject. Any appropriation approved under that heading at the present meeting should therefore be subject to review in the light of any later decision by the Committee concerning the United Nations International School.

17. Mr. KIA (Iran) referred to the estimate for interne training. During the general debate (382nd meeting), he had said that his delegation considered that programme of great value, especially for small far-distant countries such as Iran. He much regretted, therefore, that the Advisory Committee had not seen fit (A/2403, paragraph 188) to recommend that the third of the interne training groups which had been deleted from the 1953 budget should be restored. He would not oppose the Advisory Committee's recommendations on section 17 but he hoped that it would prove possible in the 1955 budget to restore that item, which involved expenditure of only \$8,000.

18. Mr. CHERNUSHCHENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said the estimate for section 17 for 1954 showed a considerable increase over the corresponding estimate for 1953. A careful study of the various items would show the 1954 estimate to be excessive, and it would appear that little consideration had been given to the possibility of economy.

19. The Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of \$29,400 in the original estimate; that was a modest proposal, the more so in view of the Advisory Committee's recognition, in document A/2403, paragraph 184, that the reductions it was recommending in the Headquarters departmental sections would, if approved, necessarily affect a number of items of common staff costs.

20. The increase in the estimate for travel and removal of staff and dependants over that for 1952 was unjustifiable, especially in the light paragraph 179 of the Advisory Committee's statement in its report, which stated that no material change in staff numbers was anticipated; moreover, the sum of \$2,000 included in that item for medical examination of new recruits prior to their departure for Headquarters seemed un-

necessary in view of the appropriation for the Health Service in section 16. The estimate for losses on the housing project was excessive, and the expense of travel on home leave could be reduced if the Advisory Committee's recommendations were followed and home leave was combined as far as possible with mission assignments. The estimates in chapter III were unduly high and the Advisory Committee's proposals did not exhaust all the possibilities of reduction.

21. His delegation had mentioned before that vast savings could be made if all governments, and particularly that of the United States, complied with the terms of General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) and 239 (III) and exempted their nationals from the payment of income tax. The increasing sums paid out for income tax reimbursement were an unwarrantable burden on the United Nations budget.

22. In view of the foregoing considerations he proposed a further reduction of \$70,000 in the budget estimates for section 17, over and above the \$29,400 reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee.

23. Mr. NATANAGARA (Indonesia), although not opposed to the Advisory Committee's relevant recommendation, understood the Iranian representative's desire for the restoration of the third interne training programme in 1954 and hoped that the Secretary-General would regard his suggestion sympathetically.

24. Mr. ASHA (Syria) said it was regrettable that provision had to be made for the reimbursement of national income tax; he appealed to the governments concerned to relieve the Organization's budget of that burden.

25. Mr. FAHMY (Egypt) asked whether the observations of delegations on the subject of taxation and the reimbursement of national income tax would be incorporated in the Committee's report.

26. Mr. AHSON (Pakistan), Rapporteur, assured him that they would be.

27. Mr. BLANCO (Cuba) expressed agreement with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

28. Mr. CAFIERO (Argentina) thought the appropriation requested for section 17, chapter 1, unduly high: the Organization had passed through its initial experimental period and such costs should be declining, not rising. The need for termination payments might be eliminated altogether if appointments were made in consultation with the governments of States Members, which could furnish lists of the best-qualified persons.

29. His delegation had no comment to make on chapter II; it had always been in favour of granting staff members and their dependants the fullest social benefits. As the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee were negligible, however, it would vote in favour of them.

30. Mr. POSHEVELYA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said the Advisory Committee's critical comments were justified in every case but the reductions it recommended were too small. Common staff costs showed no tendency to decrease; the total sum requested was, in fact, higher than the 1953 appropriation. His delegation was not convinced by the arguments in favour of increases.

31. The need for the observance of the principle of geographical distribution necessarily had some bearing on the size of recruitment of staff and installation cost; but the time had surely come to reduce and not to increase the size of the staff. In view of the Secretary-General's forthcoming survey in contemplation of a reorganization in the Secretariat, he doubted the advisability of recruiting more staff outside the United States of America in 1954.

32. The cost of travel on home leave might be reduced if leave in Europe was combined with periods of duty at the European Office of the United Nations. There were other ways, too, as the Advisory Committee had pointed out in document A/2403, paragraph 186, in which those costs might be reduced.

33. For those reasons his delegation was in favour of a reduction of the appropriation for section 17, but felt that the figure recommended by the Advisory Committee was too small. It would therefore support the proposal made by the Byelorussian representative for an additional reduction of \$70,000.

34. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Byelorussian proposal that the budget estimates for section 17 should be reduced by a further \$70,000 over and above the \$29,400 reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee.

*The Byelorussian proposal was rejected by 37 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.*

35. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$4,478,000 for section 17.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation was approved by 42 votes to 5.*

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.