



Tuesday, 9 November 1954,
at 3 p.m.

New York

CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 38:	
Budget estimates for the financial year 1955 (<i>continued</i>)	157

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 20. INFORMATION CENTRES

1. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Committee had already rejected at the 453rd meeting, a Polish proposal for a \$220,000 cut in appropriations for all information services; that proposal applied to section 20.

2. Mr. KULAGA (Poland) said that, in conformity with the attitude adopted by his delegation in the general discussion and at the first reading of the estimate for section 10 Department of Public Information, he would oppose the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General and recommended by the Advisory Committee.

3. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$905,100 in respect of section 20.

The recommendation was adopted on first reading by 37 votes to 5.

SECTION 18 CHAPTER IV. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE. SECTION 21. SECRETARIAT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST. SECTION 22. SECRETARIAT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

4. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) said that he had spoken to the Secretary-General and was now in a position to supplement the information he had given to the Committee at its previous meeting with regard to the question of senior officials not stationed in New York. Under the reorganization plan, the two present grades of top-ranking officials (Assistant Secretaries-General and Principal Directors) were replaced by a single grade of top-ranking officials—Under-Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank—whose emoluments were established in the new paragraph 1 of annex I of the staff regulations (449th meeting). That applied also to the Director and Deputy Director of the European Office and to the Executive Secretaries of the three regional economic commissions, who would re-

ceive net salaries of \$16,000. The appropriations recommended by the Advisory Committee for the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) would therefore have to be increased by \$500 each, making \$1,137,800 for section 21 and \$960,500 for section 22. With regard more particularly to the European Office of the United Nations, the question of maintaining the post of Deputy Director at the level provided in the budget would be considered in 1955.

5. Mr. CAFIERO (Argentina) pointed out that the work of the regional economic commissions was continually increasing in usefulness and importance and was daily producing more valuable results. Their activities covered many fields and concerned vast populations, which were realizing that the United Nations was aware of their problems and was endeavouring to solve them.

6. His delegation had invariably supported, in the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the Fifth Committee, any proposal designed to intensify efforts directed to the solution of such problems. The economic development of under-developed countries in particular was receiving the full attention of the Economic and Social Council. Thus, in resolution 531 A (XVIII), the Council had stated that the solution of international economic and social problems would contribute to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which were necessary for ensuring peaceful and friendly relations among nations, and that acceleration of the economic development of the under-developed countries was of major importance for the achievement of a more prosperous and stable world economy. Furthermore, it had recognized, in resolution 531 B (XVIII), the need for the continued pursuit by Member States of positive policies designed to maintain national and international economic stability with high and expanding levels of employment, productivity and standards of living, and to promote the economic development of the under-developed countries. The maintenance of peace, economic development and the improvement of social conditions were therefore parts of one and the same problem, whose gravity was fully appreciated by the Council.

7. It was a question, then, of finding the means of solving the problem. The secretariat of the Economic and Social Council was doing useful work, but the greater part of the results achieved had been made possible by the work of the regional economic commissions, which were in direct contact with the populations, clearly realized their problems and the possible solutions, and were facilitating the task of the Economic and Social Council. The Council had stressed that fact, for example, in resolution 531 C (XVIII), in which it requested the Secretary-General to make use of the valuable work which was being done by

experts under the auspices of the regional economic commissions; in resolution 533 (XVII), in which it invited the Secretary-General and the interested specialized agencies to take all practical steps such as the arrangement of visits by experts and the convening of technical conferences, calculated to help strengthen international technical co-operation in regard to water-resource development and utilization; and finally in resolution 535 (XVIII), in which it decided to resume consideration of the question of inter-regional co-operation at its twentieth session on the basis of the comments of the regional economic commissions.

8. The regional economic commissions needed funds to carry out such important work and it would be most inadvisable to reduce the appropriations for them. The amount of those appropriations was calculated on the basis of the programme of work and priorities established. The planning of ECAFE's programme was a task in which not only the countries of Asia and the Far East, but also the States members of the Commission, such as France, the Netherlands, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States took part. As paragraph 221 of the ECAFE report (E/2553)¹ stated, the programme of work had been adopted in the light of the recommendations contained in the report of the third session of the Inland Transport Committee, the report of the sixth session of the Committee on Industry and Trade, and that of the Flood Control and Water Resources Development Bureau; in adopting it, the Commission had taken into account the statements of the representatives of FAO, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the International Monetary Fund, together with resolutions 324 (XI), 362 B (XII), 402 B (XIII), 451 A (XVI) and 497 C (XVI) of the Economic and Social Council. Furthermore, it was pioneering in the development of a system of priorities for the concentration of work on a relatively limited number of high priority projects; it was trying to avoid overlapping with the work of the specialized agencies in order to achieve better utilization of international funds. As the Commission noted in paragraph 235 of its report, it had drawn up its proposed work programme on the assumption that rigid economy was to be sought in all parts of the United Nations. In his view, those facts all went to prove that the funds allocated to the regional economic commissions were wisely used and could not be reduced.

9. The Economic and Social Council took a lively interest in the work of the regional economic commissions. At its 776th and 777th meetings, during which it had considered the annual report of ECAFE, many representatives, including those of France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Yugoslavia, had agreed in acknowledging that much of the Council's action was based on the work of the regional economic commissions and that that work was one means whereby the Council fulfilled the functions attributed to it by the Charter. The Economic and Social Council had unanimously adopted resolution 516 (XVII), in which it took note of the annual report of ECAFE, and of the programme of work and priorities contained therein.

10. The same comments would apply to ECLA. He quoted extracts from the report of the Commission

(E/2536),² in particular paragraphs 129 to 131, which described how ECLA had prepared its programme of work on the basis of Economic and Social Council resolutions and the United Nations system of priorities. He recalled the opinions expressed at the 790th meeting of the Council by the representatives of France, Belgium, Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom and Czechoslovakia, who had all recognized the importance of the work done by ECLA. The Council had unanimously adopted resolution 515 (XVII), taking note of the annual report of ECLA and considering that the work programme of that Commission was of primary importance for the economic development of Latin America.

11. The Argentine delegation could not therefore accept the reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee. The reasons the Committee gave in paragraph 198 of its report (A/2688) were not convincing. The Secretary-General was proposing to create nine posts, but the number was still inadequate considering the scope of ECAFE's programme. Further, it was very doubtful whether the ECAFE officials could obtain the necessary material and data by correspondence, as the Advisory Committee suggested. In the case of ECLA, the Advisory Committee recommended an appropriation of \$10,200 less than that requested by the Secretary-General. The proposed reductions applied to items (ii) and (iii) of chapter I, namely consultants and temporary assistance. He noted, however, that the appropriation requested for consultants in 1955 was \$65,000, whereas in 1954 it had been \$98,640. Similarly, the 1954 appropriations for temporary assistance had been \$15,000, as against \$44,200 in 1953. That showed that the necessary reductions had already been made. Moreover, the secretariat of the Commission had already reduced expenditure on many items, in particular travel on official business, overtime, removal, and travel on home leave.

12. The Argentine delegation would therefore vote in favour of any proposal designed to restore the Secretary-General's estimates for ECLA and ECAFE, and it formally proposed that the appropriation of \$970,200 requested by the Secretary-General for section 22 should be approved.

13. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) had been surprised at the Argentine representative's long speech, for, interesting though it was, it seemed to imply that the Advisory Committee was acting against the interests of the regional economic commissions. He pointed out that some of the members of the Advisory Committee were from Latin-American countries, that the Advisory Committee had agreed to the establishment of twenty-four new posts in accordance with the Secretary-General's proposal, and that the Secretary-General had stated at the 435th meeting (A/C.5/580) that he would do his best to achieve the savings recommended by the Advisory Committee, provided that he was left free to apply the total reduction, in each of the two sections, at his discretion. There were not twenty budgets, but one single budget of the United Nations, which was submitted by the Secretary-General and on which the Advisory Committee had to give its views. The Committee had performed its duty of reviewing the use to be made of

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Seventeenth Session, Supplement No. 3.*

² *Ibid. Supplement No. 2.*

United Nations funds, and the fact that the Secretary-General had agreed to effect the proposed economies showed that the Advisory Committee's recommendations were justified.

14. Mr. NATANAGARA (Indonesia), referring to section 21, Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, drew the Committee's attention to the observations of the Advisory Committee (A/2688, paragraph 195) and of the Secretary-General (A/2647, page 80) on the necessity of strengthening the staff. His delegation welcomed that step and the budgetary estimates which would make it possible.

15. The Advisory Committee suggested that, in order to achieve the \$15,000 reduction it recommended, expenditure on items (ii) and (iii) of section 21 chapter I Consultants and Temporary assistance and on item (i) of chapter III Travel on official business should be reduced. As he noted that it was proposed that nine posts of manual workers should be transferred to temporary assistance, without any increase in the appropriation for that item, it was not clear to him how the Secretary-General would be able to achieve the desired saving. Moreover, the importance of consultants to the work of ECAFE could not be minimized and the Secretary-General's estimates for that item were already \$4,000 less than the 1954 appropriation.

16. With reference to the proposed reduction of appropriations for travel on official business, his delegation was concerned at the Advisory Committee's apparent underestimation of the importance of personal meetings (A/2688, paragraph 198 (c)). Some things could, of course, be achieved by correspondence but in a growing organization like ECAFE personal meetings were of the utmost value to its officials, inasmuch as representatives of the Member States were not always able to visit areas where ECAFE was active and to observe its work. All Governments recognized the value of personal contacts; in fact, some members of the Fifth Committee had gone so far as to urge that the Secretary-General should travel more. UNICEF representatives made annual tours.

17. ECAFE's work, like ECLA's, contributed much to the advancement of under-developed areas. Its work programme detailed on pages 80 to 82 of document A/2647, was one that the peoples of those areas were able to appreciate: to them it was the work of the United Nations. The amount of the proposed reduction was admittedly small, but it was of great psychological importance to ECAFE. The Indonesian delegation would therefore vote in favour of the Secretary-General's estimates.

18. Mr. DALPONTE (El Salvador) shared the Argentine representative's views and felt that the budget for ECLA was inadequate. Contrary to the ideas of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/580), it was doubtful whether a reasonable stage of stabilization could already be achieved in the budgets for the established secretariats of ECAFE and ECLA. It should be remembered that economic development was one of the basic tasks of the United Nations and that, in view of the part they played in it, the economic commissions should be encouraged in their activities and provided with adequate funds.

19. The services which States asked ECLA to perform were manifold, including preliminary studies of

economic problems in the region, both from a theoretical and practical point of view; advice to States on many questions of domestic policy; and the training of economists who would subsequently work for the State, thereby directly contributing to the human resources of Latin America. That was as it should be during the first stage of economic development, and it was to be expected that the activities of regional commissions would develop more rapidly than the economies.

20. The Secretary-General had not yet been able to embark upon the problem of the reorganization of the regional economic commissions, but the review which he was going to make would convince him of the importance of their current activities and of the work they had already accomplished with the limited funds and inadequate staff at their disposal. In that connexion he congratulated the Executive Secretary of ECLA on the work the Commission was doing for economic integration in Central America.

21. Turning to the more specifically budgetary aspects of the question, he pointed out that the budget of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), which included funds other than the appropriation proposed in section 18, chapter IV, was much bigger than the budgets of the other two Commissions, although they all had more or less the same number of staff. It was absolutely essential that the activities of ECAFE and ECLA should be extended. With regard to section 22 in particular, the appropriation proposed in chapter I was less than the appropriation approved in 1954, in spite of the creation of twenty-four new posts. His delegation could not therefore agree to the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee. It was not enough to refer to "considerations similar to those applying to ECAFE" (A/2688, paragraph 203), for the needs of the Commissions were different. In view of the numerous studies in progress, ECLA had to call in many consultants. It was equally impossible to save on travel on official business. ECLA's activities spread over a vast continent and certain specific projects, such as the integration in Central America, concerned as many as five States.

22. In conclusion, he proposed that the Fifth Committee should approve the appropriations requested by the Secretary-General and increase by \$15,000 and \$10,200 respectively the figures the Advisory Committee recommended for sections 21 and 22. That would be a provisional measure until the Secretary-General determined how much money the regional commissions would need in 1956 to promote economic development in their regions. The Secretary-General did not appear to have accepted the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee when he had said that he would do his best to achieve the savings recommended; on the contrary, he had specifically recognized the special needs of the two commissions in respect of consultants and travel on official business (A/C.5/580).

23. In reply to a question of Mr. ASHA (Syria), Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) explained that the attitude of the Secretary-General had not changed since 11 October 1954, the date upon which the 435th meeting was held. Moreover, the way in which the Secretary-General had expressed himself (A/C.5/580) left no room for misunderstanding.

24. Mr. ASHA (Syria) thanked Mr. Andersen. In view of the Secretary-General's attitude, he thought

that the members of the Committee should not be so severe towards the Advisory Committee. He asked the representatives of El Salvador, Indonesia and Argentina to reconsider their positions.

25. Lord FAIRFAX (United Kingdom) referring to the Advisory Committee's comments on the proposed addition of twenty-four posts to the secretariat of ECLA (A/2688, paragraph 202) questioned the wisdom of an increase of this size in advance of the Secretary-General's forthcoming review of the organization of overseas offices. Such an increase surely prejudged the outcome of the review of the ECLA secretariat and added to the difficulties of carrying out such measures of reorganization as the review might indicate to be necessary. It might be sufficient and wiser to add fewer new posts for 1955. In any case, his delegation was not prepared to approve the addition of those new posts otherwise than on the strict understanding outlined by the Advisory Committee.

26. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said the United States was convinced of the importance of the work of the regional economic commissions. However, the fact that there was general approval of the work of the Commissions should not exempt their budgets from careful study. The Advisory Committee had undertaken that study and had recommended token reductions which the Secretary-General had accepted. That being so, his delegation would vote for the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

27. Mr. SAPRU (India) said that he understood the motives which had prompted the Advisory Committee to recommend the reduction in the appropriations entered in sections 21 and 22, but after a careful study he had come to the conclusion that he could not do otherwise than support the Indonesian and Salvadorian representatives' remarks. While it was true that the Advisory Committee was confident that that reduction would not prejudice the Commission's work, the Asian countries, for which the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East was doing so much, were convinced that the reduction was not desirable. On the other hand to permit exchanges of staff between the secretariats of the three regional economic commissions should be encouraged and would help to develop a spirit of co-operation among staff members. Moreover, as ECAFE's position in Asia was not comparable to that of ECE in Europe, its secretariat's budget could hardly be stabilized at the present stage. So far as the recommended reduction was concerned, the Secretary-General was no doubt free to give effect to it as he thought fit, but that procedure might involve an arbitrary distribution of the reduction; in order to avoid placing the Secretary-General in a delicate position it was preferable not to amend his proposals.

28. It was important to take into account the opinion of the peoples of the under-developed regions of Asia and Latin America. The work of the regional economic commissions raised the prestige of the United Nations in the eyes of the peoples of those continents. Consequently it would be regrettable from the psychological aspect if the Secretary-General's estimates were reduced. His delegation would therefore vote for the amendments proposed by the representative of El Salvador.

29. Mr. VILLARD (Haiti) fully agreed with the preceding speakers. He drew the Committee's atten-

tion to the contemplated elimination of the posts of resident representative, whose functions were very important: they co-ordinated the experts' work, gave direct assistance to the Technical Assistance Administration (TAA) and saw to it that the assistance granted to under-developed countries was effective. He would therefore like to know whether the Secretary-General proposed to replace them without reducing assistance to the under-developed areas.

30. Mr. MELOS LECAROS (Chile) unreservedly associated himself with the Argentine representative's statement and recalled that the Chilean delegation had already explained (441st meeting) its attitude towards ECLA during the general discussion.

31. The Advisory Committee was recommending a reduction of \$10,200 in the estimates in section 22; while that was a very small reduction, it could not be justified by arguments which would be valid in the case of ECAFE; such a generalization was unjustified. Moreover, the terms on which the Advisory Committee was prepared to approve the addition of twenty-four new posts to ECLA were unacceptable (A/2688, paragraph 202); that Commission was rapidly developing, and it was not possible to refuse in advance an increase in its staffing without jeopardizing its very existence. Since social advancement depended on economic development, the work of the regional economic commissions was of paramount importance, and a reduction in their budgets could not be contemplated; any reduction would be harmful to economic development.

32. Like the Salvadorian representative, he was not sure that the Secretary-General had accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendation, and he would vote for the amendments submitted by the Salvadorian delegation. In any case, there was no doubt that the General Assembly was the sovereign body and that the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee could do no more than submit proposals.

33. Mr. MONTERO BUSTAMANTE (Uruguay), like the Chilean representative, felt that it was not clear from document A/C.5/580 that the Secretary-General accepted the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee in respect of section 22. Moreover, the Advisory Committee's argument that the depreciation of the Chilean peso and of the Mexican dollar in terms of United States dollars enabled the number of permanent posts in the secretariat of ECLA to be increased made the Commission's staffing dependent on a transient factor and was not likely to inspire the Latin-American countries with confidence. For that reason his delegation could not do otherwise than approve the Argentine proposal.

34. Mr. STRAUCH (Brazil) associated himself with the previous speakers' remarks on the vital importance of the work of the regional economic commissions. While it was true that Mr. Aghnides had acknowledged that the Secretary-General would be at liberty to distribute as he thought fit between sections 21 and 22 the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee, that assurance had not dispelled the misgivings of the Brazilian delegation, which feared that that saving might be reflected in a reduction in the regional economic commissions' activities. He felt, therefore, that it was necessary to restore the Secretary-General's original estimates.

35. Mr. KOSTIC (Yugoslavia) said that, while his delegation held the Advisory Committee and its Chairman in the highest esteem, it could not, in view of the increasing importance of the work of the three regional commissions, follow the Advisory Committee in its conclusions. His delegation therefore proposed that the appropriations requested by the Secretary-General for the Economic Commission for Europe should be restored, and he associated himself with the Argentine and Salvadorian proposals.
36. Mr. BUNCHOEM (Thailand) thought that it was still much too early to speak of stabilizing the budgets of the regional economic commissions, whose work was bound to develop further. His delegation would therefore support the proposal submitted by El Salvador, Argentina and Yugoslavia.
37. Mr. RIZK (Lebanon) said he had the greatest confidence in the Advisory Committee's impartiality and acknowledged that the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee were very small. Nevertheless, the Latin-American and Asian countries seemed to fear that the work of the regional commissions might be affected by the reductions. Those countries were the best judges of the matter, and his delegation would therefore vote for the Secretary-General's original estimates.
38. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) said that his country, which participated in the work of ECAFE, was highly appreciative of the activities of the regional economic commissions. The Fifth Committee should not forget, however, that the budget was a whole and that the Advisory Committee considered its several sections with the same impartiality. Though his delegation felt strong sympathy for the countries of Latin America and Asia, it was prepared to follow the Advisory Committee's advice, the more so as the Secretary-General seemed to think that the work of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and of the Economic Commission for Latin America would not be affected by the savings recommended by the Advisory Committee.
39. The Advisory Committee was composed of experts selected by the Fifth Committee on account of their special qualifications in the administrative and budgetary fields. That body had been set up to guide the Committee. It was discharging its task with the greatest care, and the Committee was bound to give close study to whatever recommendations it thought fit to make.
40. Mr. CARRIZOSA (Colombia) thought that it would be regrettable if ECLA and ECAFE were compelled to restrict their activities because they lacked the necessary appropriations. His delegation would therefore be unable to approve the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee.
41. Mr. ROUSSOS (Greece) agreed with the Indian representative about the possible psychological effect in the Asian and Latin-American countries of a reduction in the estimates for the regional commissions. The General Assembly ought not to give those countries the impression that it was indifferent to their problems. The Greek delegation was therefore in favour of restoring the estimates proposed by the Secretary-General for ECAFE and ECLA; and, in order not to discriminate against any of the three regional commissions, his delegation would also support the Yugoslav proposal.
42. Mr. BIHIN (Belgium) did not think that the Advisory Committee had any intention of limiting the activity of the regional economic commissions. Otherwise the Secretary-General would assuredly not have accepted the reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee. The Belgian delegation would accordingly vote for the Advisory Committee's recommendation.
43. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that the Advisory Committee was fully aware that its role was confined to submitting opinions on administrative and budgetary questions to the General Assembly; it did not intend to assume powers which it did not possess. In the present case, the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee in the budgets of the regional economic commissions was of secondary importance. On the other hand, a serious situation would arise if certain sections of the budget came to be regarded as sacrosanct. What was more, by restoring estimates the reduction of which had been accepted by the Secretary-General, the Committee would actually be taking upon itself responsibilities which lay with the Secretary-General and would thus create a dangerous precedent.
44. The Committee could rest assured that the Advisory Committee would not hesitate to help the regional economic commissions if it subsequently became apparent that the estimates approved on its recommendation were insufficient.
45. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) wished to reply to certain observations that had been made.
46. First, the United Kingdom representative had implied that it might be inadvisable to increase the number of permanent posts in ECLA's secretariat, inasmuch as that secretariat was to be reorganized in 1955. He explained that that step had been recommended to remedy the difficulties encountered by ECLA, which had not had a staff sufficient to carry out its work.
47. With regard to the Haitian representative's remark, he stated that the question of resident representatives would be taken up when the budget of the Technical Assistance Board's secretariat was discussed.
48. Finally, he wished to dispel any misunderstanding concerning the Secretary-General's position. The Secretary-General submitted budgetary estimates which he considered reasonable, but realized that in that field exact estimates were impossible.
49. He could not say that a reduction of the order of one per cent in the estimates submitted, such as that proposed for the regional commissions by the Advisory Committee, was calculated to hamper the proper functioning of those bodies. He therefore promised to do his best to effect the economies that had been recommended. His position would naturally have been different if he had had fears as to the future of the three regional economic commissions. In any case, the Secretary-General knew that if during the year the estimates approved appeared insufficient, there would be the possibility of asking the Advisory Committee for supplementary estimates under the heading of unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

50. Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq) hoped that the representatives of the Latin-American and Asian countries, after hearing the explanations of Mr. Andersen and Mr. Aghnides, would reconsider their position. It was hard to imagine that the reduction asked for by the Advisory Committee could prevent the regional commissions from working satisfactorily. Moreover, the Fifth Committee would be setting a dangerous precedent by opposing the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee.

51. Mr. DALPONTE (El Salvador) did not question the fact that it was impossible to prepare absolutely accurate budget estimates. For that very reason the Committee would by no means be harming the prestige of the Advisory Committee if it did not adopt its conclusions. The Salvadorian delegation was determined to vote against the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

52. Mr. ROMANACCE CHALAS (Dominican Republic) agreed with the Salvadorian representative. He recalled that two years previously the Committee, in the face of the Advisory Committee's opinion, had decided that Spanish should be a working language of the Economic and Social Council,³ which had entailed an additional expenditure of about half a million dollars. The Advisory Committee's prestige had in no way suffered. His delegation would therefore support the proposal to restore the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General.

53. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Yugoslav proposal that the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 18, chapter IV Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe should be increased by \$9,500.

The proposal was adopted, on first reading, by 24 votes to 20, with 5 abstentions.

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Annexes*, agenda item 69, A/2283, paragraph 47.

54. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the proposal of El Salvador and Yugoslavia that the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 21, Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, should be increased by \$15,000.

The proposal was adopted, on first reading, by 28 votes to 19 with 2 abstentions.

55. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the proposal of Argentina, El Salvador and Yugoslavia that the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 22, Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America, should be increased by \$10,200.

The proposal was adopted, on first reading, by 28 votes to 19 with 2 abstentions.

SECTION 23. HOSPITALITY

56. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation to approve an estimate of \$20,000 for section 23.

The recommendation was unanimously adopted, on first reading.

SECTION 23a. SPECIAL PAYMENTS UNDER ANNEX I, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS

57. The CHAIRMAN called the Committee's attention to document A/C.5/600, in which the Secretary-General stated that the implementation of the decision taken by the Fifth Committee at its 449th meeting regarding the additional payments to be made to Under-Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank necessitated the approval of an estimate of \$50,000 under a new section 23a Special payments under Annex I, paragraph 2, of the staff regulations.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.