



CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Agenda item 38:	
Budget estimates for the financial year 1955 (con- tinued)	129

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)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that, pursuant to the Committee's decision on the salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries or officials of an equivalent rank (449th meeting), the Secretary-General had submitted in document A/C.5/600 revised estimates for various sections of the budget.

SECTION 6. OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Chapter I. Executive Office of the Secretary-General

2. Mr. KOSTIC (Yugoslavia) noted that, as could be seen from paragraph 75 of its report (A/2688), the Advisory Committee had not accepted the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a post of Social Counsel with any great enthusiasm. He would like to have some explanation of the functions of the Social Counsel.

3. Mr. CAFIERO (Argentina) was not opposed to the increases requested by the Secretary-General but he hoped that reductions would be possible in subsequent budgets. In 1954, expenditure had very often exceeded the appropriations provided. While it was admittedly difficult to make exact estimates in budgetary matters, the Secretary-General should be required to obtain the consent of the Advisory Committee before spending money on an item after the appropriations provided for it had been exhausted. Otherwise, the Fifth Committee's control would be a mere illusion. Furthermore, the expenditure on temporary assistance, consultants and travel of staff was now put together (sections 13 and 14) and it was impossible to see how it was distributed among the various services.

4. Mr. SAPRU (India) noted that the Advisory Committee thought the post of *Social Counsel* should be established on a purely experimental basis. The Indian delegation had no preconceived ideas on the subject but it would like to have more detailed information on the functions of the Social Counsel, and parti-

cularly on the effects the appointment might have on the morale and efficiency of the staff.

5. Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) did not see any need for the innovation. The functions envisaged for the Social Counsel could be discharged by the Office of Personnel. He therefore proposed that the appropriations requested under chapter I should be reduced by \$23,000, or the amount of the emoluments payable to the Social Counsel and his assistants.

6. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) thought the Social Counsel could render very great service, especially if one of his assistants was a woman.

7. Mr. HALL (United States of America) supported the creation of the Social Counsel post. The Secretary-General was in a better position than anyone else to judge of the advisability of establishing the new service. He agreed with the Advisory Committee, however, that it might perhaps be more appropriate in the long run to assign the Office of the Social Counsel to the Office of Personnel. There was no reason why the proposal should not be adopted on an experimental basis, on the understanding that the matter would be reviewed in 1955.

8. Mr. CLOUGH (United Kingdom) agreed with the representative of the United States. He knew from experience that a service of that kind could do much for Secretariat morale.

9. Mr. CORDIER (Secretariat) said that the Secretary-General was convinced that the Office of the Social Counsel could render very considerable services in matters which were beyond the jurisdiction of the Office of Personnel and the Health Service. It would mean that comprehensive solutions could be found for problems which had hitherto had to be dealt with separately. It was essential that the Office of the Social Counsel should be directed by a person close to the Secretary-General and of sufficiently high rank. For the information of the representative of Denmark, he stated that the officer who was to be transferred from the Office of Personnel to assist the Social Counsel was a woman.

10. With regard to item (ii) Overtime and night differential, he explained that the Executive Office of the Secretary-General was trying to reduce expenditure of that kind to a minimum, but that it often had to deal with unforeseen demands, one reason being that delegations frequently consulted the Executive Office outside working hours. It would be unreasonable, therefore, to reduce the appropriations requested by the Secretary-General under that head.

Chapter II. Office of Legal Affairs

11. Mr. VAN ASCH VAN WIJCK (Netherlands) noted that, for administrative reasons, it was proposed

that the secretariat of the Administrative Tribunal should be attached to the Office of the Legal Counsel. He would like to have some assurance that the transfer would not affect the Administrative Tribunal's independence.

12. Mr. KULAGA (Poland) recalled that, in the general discussion (437th meeting) the Polish delegation had requested that the total amount of the budget estimates for 1955 should be brought down to 35 million dollars and that for that purpose the reorganization of the Secretariat should be completed in 1955. He therefore proposed that the general service post that was to be suppressed in the reorganization plan should be abolished as from 1955, reducing the appropriations requested under chapter II by \$5,200.

13. Mr. STAVROPOULOS (Secretariat) explained, in reply to the Netherlands representative's observation, that the proposal to attach the secretariat of the Administrative Tribunal to the Office of the Legal Counsel rather than to any other service was promoted by purely administrative considerations. The independence of the Administrative Tribunal would be absolutely guaranteed. Furthermore, the Chairman of the Administrative Tribunal had been consulted and had raised no objection.

14. With regard to the Polish delegation's proposal, he did not think it would be reasonable to abolish a general service post in 1955, for the preparation of the Repertory of the Charter, upon which the Office of the Legal Counsel was at present engaged, entailed a great deal of stenographic work.

Chapter III. Office of the Controller

15. Mr. CAFIERO (Argentina) noted that, as in 1954, the Secretary-General was asking for an appropriation of \$2,500 to cover the expenses of the Investments Committee, whereas the expenditure of that Committee in 1954 would probably amount to \$3,600.

16. Mr. KULAGA (Poland), supported by Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), proposed, for the reasons he had already given, that five permanent posts should be abolished, which should mean a saving of about \$30,000.

17. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) pointed out that such a measure would run counter to the principles of staff policy explained by the Secretary-General and would, moreover, be difficult to put into effect because of the changes which would have to be made in the distribution of the work.

Chapter IV. Office of Personnel

18. Mr. CAFIERO (Argentina) noted that the Secretary-General requested an appropriation of \$2,000 under item (ii) *Overtime and night differential*. Experience in 1954 seemed to show that an appropriation of \$1,000 would be sufficient. The Argentine delegation accordingly proposed that the appropriation for that item should be limited to \$1,000.

19. It also proposed a reduction of \$1,000 under item (iii) *Miscellaneous supplies and services*, inasmuch as it should be possible to hold examinations either at the offices of the Information Centres or on premises lent by Governments.

20. With regard to item (iv) *International Civil Service Advisory Board*, he felt that appreciable savings could be effected if the Board met in New York instead of Geneva. He accordingly proposed that the appropriation requested for that item should be reduced by \$1,800. Lastly, he would like to know whether the Review Board appointed by the Secretary-General would complete its work in 1955.

21. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) wished to make a few observations about the Argentine proposal that the appropriations requested for chapter IV should be reduced by \$3,800.

22. The estimates for item (iii), *Miscellaneous supplies and services*, had been prepared on the basis of the examinations to be held in 1955. It might be difficult to arrange for all the examinations contemplated if the Committee reduced the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General.

23. With regard to item (iv) *International Civil Service Advisory Board*, the expenditure figure for 1954 was deceptive, for two members of the Board had not attended that session. The Board met alternate years in New York and Europe. If it held its session in New York no real saving would be effected, since many members of the Board lived in Europe. Lastly it should not be forgotten that the specialized agencies bore half the expense of the Board.

24. The Office of Personnel would have a great deal of work to do in 1955 and in view of the elimination of two established posts it was necessary to increase the estimates for overtime.

25. Mr. CAFIERO (Argentina) said that in view of the explanations given by the Secretary-General's representative he was prepared to withdraw his proposal. He hoped, however, that his various suggestions would be taken into account in the preparation of future budgets.

26. Mr. KULAGA (Poland), supported by Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), proposed that the five posts mentioned in the reorganization plan should be eliminated from 1955 onwards and that the appropriations requested under chapter IV should accordingly be reduced by \$25,000.

27. Mr. KATZIN (Secretariat) pointed out that the Secretary-General had explained why he did not consider it desirable to accelerate the reorganization of the Secretariat.

Chapter V. Internal Audit Service

28. Mr. KULAGA (Poland), supported by Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), proposed that four established posts should be eliminated from 1955 onwards and that the appropriations requested for chapter V should accordingly be reduced by \$13,000.

29. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) said that the proposal raised the same difficulties as the Polish proposal concerning chapter III.

Chapter VI. Health Service

30. Mr. KULAGA (Poland) pointed out that the Secretary-General contemplated eliminating one general service post as part of his plan for the reorganiza-

tion of the Secretariat. The Polish delegation proposed that that post should be eliminated from 1955 onwards, thus saving \$3,000.

31. The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee to vote on the various proposals submitted. He first put to the vote the USSR delegation's proposal for a reduction of \$23,000 in the estimates for chapter I recommended by the Advisory Committee.

The proposal was rejected by 38 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.

32. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Polish delegation's proposal for a reduction of \$5,200 in the estimates for chapter II recommended by the Advisory Committee.

The proposal was rejected by 36 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.

33. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Polish delegation's proposal for a reduction of \$30,000 in the estimates for chapter III recommended by the Advisory Committee.

The proposal was rejected by 41 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.

34. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Polish delegation's proposal for a reduction of \$25,000 in the estimates for chapter IV recommended by the Advisory Committee.

The proposal was rejected by 41 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

35. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Polish delegation's proposal for a reduction of \$13,000 in the estimates for chapter V recommended by the Advisory Committee.

The proposal was rejected by 41 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

36. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Polish delegation's proposal for a reduction of \$3,000 in the estimates for chapter VI recommended by the Advisory Committee.

The proposal was rejected by 40 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

37. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that \$2,117,050 be appropriated under section 6 (A/C.5/600, Revised Estimate).

The recommendation was approved on first reading by 40 votes to 5.

38. Mr. KOSTIC (Yugoslavia) said that his vote for the Advisory Committee's recommendation should not be taken to mean that the Yugoslav delegation approved of the establishment of the post of Social Counsel.

SECTION 6 a. OFFICE OF UNDER-SECRETARIES WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

39. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat), explaining the reduction of \$8,350 shown in the revised estimates (A/C.5/600), said that, as a result of the Committee's decision at its 449th meeting, the amount of the salary and related allowances contemplated for one Under-Secretary was to be reduced by \$8,500 and that contemplated for the other Under-Secretary was to be increased by \$150.

40. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that \$76,650 be appropriated under section 6 a (A/C.5/600, Revised Estimate).

The recommendation was adopted on first reading by 43 votes to none.

SECTION 7. DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS

41. Mr. KULAGA (Poland) said that during the general debate the Polish delegation had emphasized the necessity of carrying out the reorganization of the Secretariat as quickly as possible. He accordingly proposed that the sixteen posts due to be abolished in 1956 under the reorganization plan should be abolished in 1955. It would thus be possible to save \$80,000.

42. Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. RYBAR (Czechoslovakia) supported that proposal.

43. Mr. HALL (United States of America) said that the Secretary-General must be allowed time to reduce the manning table to the planned size without having to adopt over-hasty measures. The rapid reduction proposed by the Polish representative would be a mistake.

44. Mr. CAFIERO (Argentina) noted that the Secretary-General requested a reduction of eleven posts in order to concentrate the resources of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs upon issues of a current nature. He also noted that the Department intended to use its staff in a flexible way. He would therefore vote for the Advisory Committee's recommendation in view of the fact that the appropriation proposed (\$657,300) represented in itself a saving of \$92,700 by comparison with 1954.

45. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) agreed with the United States representative. In the general discussion, the Australian delegation had defended the Secretary-General's view that the reorganization should be carried out gradually, applying humane and common-sense principles of staff administration, and had even opposed the Advisory Committee's recommendations in some cases. It had been his delegation's impression that the majority of the Committee agreed with the Secretary-General. In the circumstances, he thought that the Polish proposal should be rejected.

46. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Polish proposal for a reduction of \$80,000 in the estimate recommended by the Advisory Committee.

The proposal was rejected by 38 votes to 5.

47. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$657,300 under section 7.

The recommendation was approved on first reading by 39 votes to 5.

SECTION 7 a. SECRETARIAT OF THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE

48. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Advisory Committee accepted the Secretary-General's figure (\$109,200), subject to the qualifications mentioned in paragraphs 88 and 89 of its report (A/2688).

49. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) explained that the Advisory Committee's views had been endorsed by the Survey Group which had stated that from the standpoint of efficiency and economy alone, the ideal arrangement would be for the secretariat of the Military Staff Committee to be fully integrated into the appropriate Headquarters services. Those services would then assume the same obligations towards the Military Staff Committee as towards other bodies, subject to such special measures as might be deemed advisable in the interests of security.

50. Commander JUNIPER (Principal Secretary of the Military Staff Committee) said that the Chairman of the Military Staff Committee had stated in September 1954 that any proposal to merge the Military Staff Committee's secretariat with the United Nations Headquarters Secretariat was unacceptable. The Military Staff Committee must have its own secretariat, as laid down in its rules of procedure. The transfer of funds between section 7a and section 11—Department of Conference Services—would be tantamount to the abolition of the Military Staff Committee's secretariat. It was of course important that the Committee's secretariat should be fully occupied, but the estimate had already been cut by the abolition of 5 posts, and there was nothing to show that the proposed new arrangements would be satisfactory. The Military Staff Committee accordingly accepted the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee but could not accept its reservations. Nevertheless, the Military Staff Committee wished to be co-operative and had agreed to discuss the question with the Secretary-General.

51. Mr. CLOUGH (United Kingdom) was glad that the Military Staff Committee had agreed to discuss the question with the Secretary-General but regretted that its secretariat was not fully occupied. Such a situation might be bad for the secretariat itself and for the reputation of the organization. He hoped that a solution would emerge from the present discussions.

52. The problem was not a new one and the suggestions made to the Military Staff Committee on previous occasions had had little or no effect. Although it was proposed to abolish certain posts, that was not a complete solution. It should be possible to come to some arrangement under which the members of the Military Staff Committee's secretariat could be integrated into the Department of Conference Services and be made available to the Military Staff Committee when needed, without there being any threat to security. He hoped that a solution on those lines would be found.

53. Mr. KOSTIC (Yugoslavia), Mr. SAPRU (India), Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) and Mr. VAN ASCH VAN WIJCK (Netherlands) associated themselves with that statement.

54. Mr. HALL (United States of America) wondered whether the principal secretaries of the Military Staff Committee could not take part of the responsibility for remedying the situation.

55. Commander JUNIPER (Principal Secretary of the Military Staff Committee) said that the principal secretaries intended to do so. They would do all they could to ensure the fuller utilization of the secretariat. At the same time, it was essential that the Military Staff Committee should have its own secretariat to

enable it to render the Secretary-General the fullest possible assistance.

56. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$109,200 under section 7a.

The recommendation was approved on first reading by 43 votes to none.

SECTION 8. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

57. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that the Secretary-General had originally envisaged the establishment of two Deputy Under-Secretaries' posts in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, but had agreed to only one.

58. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) explained that that decision would permit a reduction of \$21,500 in the estimates for the Department. The decision taken at the 449th meeting modifying the system of allowances would permit a further reduction of \$8,500.

59. Mr. CAFIERO (Argentina) pointed out that the Argentine delegation had stated during the general discussion (436th meeting) that it was in favour of the merger of the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs. The merger had obvious advantages; it would make it possible to concentrate the resources of the Departments concerned and would result in substantial savings. He noted with interest that the Secretary-General intended to give the new department certain co-ordinating functions in regard to the specialized agencies and to direct its work more and more towards the economic and social development of the under-developed countries.

60. He had no definite opinion with regard to the Technical Assistance Administration (TAA), but he noted that the Secretary-General proposed to make a detailed study of the question. He pointed out that the economic development of the under-developed countries, which was one of the main objectives of the United Nations, provided a basis for the co-ordination of effort in the economic and social fields and the field of technical assistance. The final goal, raising the living standards of millions of men and women, was obviously a social one. To achieve that end, countries must develop economically, and in the process could take advantage of the United Nations technical assistance programmes. The end and the means were thus closely linked, and it therefore should not be difficult to co-ordinate the work of the new unified department with that of TAA.

61. The Argentine delegation had expressed that view at the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Economic and Social Council and in the Technical Assistance Committee. It was now reaffirming the fundamental principles that should govern the co-ordination of the unified department and the TAA.

62. With reference to the more strictly budgetary aspects of the problem, he said that the Secretary-General had tried to concentrate resources and prevent waste. The reorganization had resulted in the abolition of 32 posts but a relatively large number of senior posts had been maintained. The structure was however necessary in order to ensure that the Secretariat's reports and studies were of the highest quality. It also permitted substantial indirect savings. The Economic

and Social Council, by resolution 557 C II and III (XVIII), had been able to discontinue the activity of the Fiscal Commission and the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling, because it could rely on the specialized services of the Secretariat. It might be possible to discontinue the activity of the Population Commission and the Transport and Communications Commission, if the Secretariat could take over their work. In any event, the Argentine delegation did not agree with the view expressed in paragraph 96 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/2688); 22 of the 32 posts to be abolished in 1955, i.e., 69 per cent, were senior posts; furthermore, it should not be forgotten that the posts abolished in the Department accounted for 20 per cent of all Secretariat posts abolished.

63. The Secretary-General requested an appropriation of \$6,400 under chapter I, item (ii)—Overtime and night differential. The Argentine representative hoped that such expenditure would be reduced to a minimum in future; the actual expenditure had never exceeded \$5,000 in recent years.

64. Under chapter II, the Secretary-General requested \$25,700 for two special meetings of experts planned for 1955. Quoting Economic and Social Council resolution 533 (XVIII) on international co-operation with respect to water resource development, he asked whether the Secretary-General felt that the group of experts on water resources would in fact be able to meet in 1955. He also pointed out that the Group of Experts on Statistical Sampling was to have reported to the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling, which the Council had decided not to re-establish; perhaps the Secretary-General could say whether it was still necessary for the group to meet or whether the Statistical Office would do the work.

65. Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that if the expenditure for temporary assistance and consultants (section 13) which amounted to approximately \$120,000 for 1955 were taken into account, the total amount requested for the unified Department of Economic and Social Affairs was not \$3,687,000, but \$3,807,000, i.e., only \$90,000 less than the appropriations for 1954, and more than total expenditure in 1953. The Secretary-General also requested larger appropriations for the three regional economic commissions. However, the Advisory Committee had, as representatives would remember, repeatedly suggested that any expansion in the activity of the regional Commissions should be offset by a corresponding reduction in the activities of Headquarters services. Those suggestions had been without effect.

66. He considered that the merger of the two old Departments was incomplete as their internal administrative structure remained almost the same. There were still two separate bureaux and the same divisions as before. The reorganization should therefore be carried further. It would ensure that the unified Department worked more efficiently and reduce the cost.

67. Drawing attention to paragraph 96 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/2688) which dealt with the number of senior posts in the unified Department, he briefly restated the position his delegation had taken during the general discussion on the question of Deputy Under-Secretaries. If an Under-Secretary and a Deputy Under-Secretary with the same status were placed at the head of a Department, neither would be respon-

sible in practice. There must be only one head of the Department, fully responsible for his staff. Any other solution was bound to give rise to misunderstandings. Moreover, the post of Deputy Under-Secretary was not justified even in the event of the absence of the Under-Secretary, since the latter could always be replaced by a Director or by another Under-Secretary.

68. Finally, his delegation agreed with the Polish delegation that the Secretary-General should again consider the possibility of completing the reorganization in 1955 instead of 1956. The earlier completion of the reorganization would enable substantial savings to be made in the budget of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. For that reason his delegation proposed a reduction of \$430,000 in the appropriation recommended under section 8.

69. Mr. GANEM (France) regretted that he was not in possession of the facts necessary to undertake a detailed examination of the question of the reorganization of the two former Departments of Economic and Social Affairs. The Committee had before it only a very short draft budget and the equally short observations of the Advisory Committee. It was true that a copy of the Survey Group's report had been distributed unofficially to each of the members of the Committee but that had been done only at a very late date and in only one language. Moreover, the Advisory Committee had not been asked to examine that report in detail and in any case it would not have had the time to do so.

70. Naturally, his delegation would approve the appropriations requested by the Secretary-General and would support the merger of the two Departments, but in view of the fact that it lacked the necessary facts, it could not support all the proposals and suggestions submitted by the Survey Group. His delegation was concerned about the existence of two trends, which was apparent from the section of the Survey Group's report devoted to the unified Department.

71. In the first place, social questions seemed to be neglected. At the first session of the General Assembly in London, his delegation had strongly urged the establishment of a Department of Social Affairs. It recognized that the time had come for reorganization, but economic questions should not be emphasized at the expense of important problems such as population and human rights. The change of emphasis was perhaps justified, but his delegation had not had the time to form an opinion. In any case, prudence was necessary and it should be borne in mind that the Department must not deal exclusively with economic questions having some social aspects.

72. Secondly, emphasis had rightly been placed on problems affecting the under-developed countries. His delegation had always been in favour of that tendency. At the same time, there were other important problems which affected all states, even the most highly developed countries. The Department should deal particularly with the problem of the ageing of the population and with its economic, budgetary and social repercussions. The problems of local communities in the under-developed countries were to be given special consideration but at the same time the problems of local industrial communities should not be overlooked. He cited those two examples as an illustration of the concern felt by his own delegation and by many other delegations.

73. Lastly, the Secretary-General had stated that he hoped to entrust universities and research centres with

some work of an academic nature, which the Secretariat had hitherto undertaken directly or with the assistance of consultants. The idea in itself was excellent but it should not be forgotten that the world was divided into two hemispheres and that there were other parts of the world besides the northern half of the Western Hemisphere. That fact should be taken into account and the principle of geographic distribution should be applied.

74. Mr. HALL (United States of America) wholeheartedly supported the measures taken by the Secretary-General to concentrate resources and efforts. He associated himself with the comments made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 96 of its report (A/2688). His delegation thought that further savings could be made and that more posts could be abolished.

75. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that the comments in its report (A/2688) were based on the information available to the Advisory Committee in June and July 1954, i.e., before the appearance of the Secretary-General's report (A/2731) and the Survey Group's report, which had altered the situation with regard to the target period. The Advisory Committee had subsequently taken note of the fact that the Secretary-General intended to abolish 32 posts in the unified Department in 1955 and a further 47 at a later date.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.