



Eleventh session  
Agenda item 43

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1957

Section 19, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Section 18, United Nations Office at Geneva

Revised estimates for the Office of the High Commissioner  
for Refugees

Thirty-second report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary  
Questions to the eleventh session of the General Assembly

1. In his initial budget estimates for 1957 (A/3126, pages 49 to 51)<sup>1/</sup> the Secretary-General requested the provision of \$687,200 under section 19 for the requirements of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended the sum of \$685,000 for appropriation (A/3160, paragraphs 223 to 227)<sup>2/</sup>.
2. The Advisory Committee has now considered a report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/688) concerning the problem of the flow of refugees from Hungary, and proposing an increase of \$93,400 (comprising \$81,500 under section 19 and \$11,900 for related costs under section 18) in the 1957 estimates for the High Commissioner's Office.
3. The Secretary-General's report states:
  - (a) That on 5 December 1956 the number of refugees from Hungary who had arrived in Austria exceeded 110,000, and that the inflow was continuing at the rate of about 3,000 per day;

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Eleventh Session, Supplement No. 5.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7.

(b) That, as estimated by the High Commissioner's Office, about 75 per cent of these refugees will stay in Europe and will belong for a given period of time to the category of unsettled refugees; and

(c) That the additional responsibilities arising out of this situation are beyond the workload capacity of the High Commissioner's Office as at present established.

4. The staffing additions which the Secretary-General accordingly proposes, and which would be charged to temporary assistance in 1957, are the following:

	<u>Professional category</u>	<u>General Service category</u>	<u>Total cost including overtime</u> \$
Headquarters Office at Geneva	2	5	(
Branch offices	2	8	( 53,900

The remaining costs to be charged to section 19 amount to \$27,600, and cover requirements for official travel and, with reference to the branch offices alone, common staff costs, common services and permanent equipment. In so far as the headquarters (Geneva) Office is concerned, provision for common staff costs and common services to an estimated amount of \$11,900 would be included in section 18. Offsetting revenue from the application of the Staff Assessment Plan is estimated at \$4,600.

5. The Advisory Committee has been assured that the additional funds are required solely for the function of international protection of refugees as defined in article 8 of the statute of the High Commissioner's Office; that the proposed expenditure is therefore properly chargeable, in accordance with article 20 of that statute, to the regular budget of the United Nations; and that no part thereof will be devoted to administrative or other purposes connected with the United Nations Refugee Fund.

6. Since 1954, the General Assembly has stabilized the appropriations for the High Commissioner's Office under section 19 at the figure of \$685,000. Clearly, however, the plight of the refugees from Hungary calls for exceptional measures. The Advisory Committee concurs in the proposal submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/688).

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7. As regards the initial estimates for section 19, the terms of appointment of the new High Commissioner for Refugees (A/3428) provide for emoluments in accordance with the scales applicable to Under Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank, and differing therefore from those entered in the budget document (A/3126, page 49). In the absence of information regarding the additional payment (if any) to be made in 1957 for representation and hospitality purposes, the Advisory Committee is not in a position to determine whether some savings may in fact arise on the 1957 budget.

8. On the above basis, the Advisory Committee makes the following recommendations in respect of the 1957 requirements of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees:

	\$	\$
Section 19 (initial estimates) .....	685,000	
" 19 (additional provision, A/C.5/688) .....	81,500	766,500
Section 18 (additional provision, A/C.5/688) .....		11,900
	TOTAL	<u>778,400</u>

9. An amount of approximately \$76,000 is already included in section 18 of the 1957 estimates in respect of common staff costs and common services attributable to the High Commissioner's Office, while section 25 contains \$3,300 for contractual printing costs.

10. The above recommendations are limited, of course, to the year 1957, and the Advisory Committee trusts that the High Commissioner will find it possible, upon review of the administrative arrangements at his headquarters office and at the branch offices and of the future workload under the statute, to suggest economies sufficient to reduce the 1958 estimates to the level of prior years.

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