

SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE FINANCES OF THE IRO

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVENTH MEETING

Hold at Lake Success, New York on Monday, 30 September 1946
at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Chairman: Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai (India)

Mr. Ridell	(Canada)
Mr. Yang	(China)
Mr. de Rosen	(France)
Mr. Sen	(India)
Mr. Lunde	(Norway)
Mr. Pakino	(Peru)
Mr. Topliakov	(USSR)
Mr. Pitblado	(United Kingdom)
Mr. Roseman	(United States)
Mr. Mates	(Yugoslavia)

Sir Herbert Emerson - Inter-governmental Committee
on Refugees

Mr. Youdin - UNRRA

Secretariat: Mr. Pickard, Refugee Division
Miss J. Henderson, Management and Budget

Consideration of the Administrative Budget of the IRO (E/REF.FIN/23) and the
Draft Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Finances (Working Paper dated
28 September 1946)

MISS HENDERSON (Secretariat) stated that the figures for the administrative budget which appeared in the Annex to the Draft Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Finances were the same as those contained in the Report of the Finances Committee (E/REF.FIN/23). As a result of the decision taken this morning in the Council that the Executive Committee, normally, would meet every two weeks, a change would have to be made in the estimate for Section 1 (E/REF.FIN/23, p.19). The figures in Section 2 would thereby be enlarged at the expense of the estimate given for Section 1, paragraph a(ii).

A token sum had been assigned to cover the costs of a Far Eastern Regional Office (E/REF.FIN/23, p.20) and therefore no reduction had been made concerning salaries for administrative personnel, as had been done in the case of salaries for field staff, on the assumption that this supplementary fund could be used, if necessary, for the Far Eastern Office.

Paragraphs 1-8 of the Draft Report

These paragraphs were adopted without comment.

Paragraph 9 (a)

Mr. TEPLIAKOV (USSR) proposed the substitution of the following text for the second paragraph of paragraph 9 (a):

"The Soviet Union Delegation, in voting against the inclusion in the budget of items with respect to refugees in Spain and Shanghai fully reserved the position of the Soviet Government regarding the eligibility of refugees in the territories mentioned above."

Paragraph 9 (a) as amended was adopted.

Paragraph 9 (b)

At the suggestion of Mr. PITBLADO (UNITED KINGDOM) the sentence, "This is also the position of the other members of the Committee", was added at the end of this paragraph.

Paragraph 9 (b) as amended was adopted.

Paragraph 9 (c)

Mr. de ROSEN (FRANCE) proposed that the words "opposition to obligatory" be replaced by the words "emphasis on the principle of voluntary and non-obligatory".

Paragraph 9 (c) as amended was adopted.

Paragraph 9 (d)

At the suggestion of Mr. PATINO (PERU) the words "regarding would-be settlers" were inserted after "information".

Paragraph 9 (d) as amended was adopted.

Paragraph 9 (e)

Mr. YANG (CHINA) drew attention to the fact that the Report of the Finance Committee made reference to 700,000 Chinese displaced persons and roughly

speaking 800,000 displaced persons in Europe. In view of this close approximation in numbers he was sure that the sub-committee would agree that equal sympathetic consideration should be granted to the Far Eastern as to the European displaced persons problem.

Paragraph 9 (e) was adopted.

Mr. ROSEMAN (UNITED STATES) stated that his delegation wished to include a reservation in respect of the estimate for large-scale resettlement. Mr. de ROSEN (FRANCE) suggested that a short discussion in the sub-committee might successfully dispose of this issue, but Mr. TEPLIAKOV (USSR) considered that the question should be left to the decision of the General Assembly or to the IRO General Council. As there was no unanimity of opinion, the CHAIRMAN ruled that the subject could not be reopened for discussion.

The United States Delegate therefore proposed the inclusion of the following new paragraph 9 (f):

"The United States Delegation stated that it considered that the amount provided in Part II under the heading 'Large Scale Resettlement Operation' was not adequate, and suggested the following substitute language:

'Cost of Resettlement Activities \$5,000,000', thus omitting any specific estimate of the number of displaced persons and refugees to be resettled during the first year of the Organization. The United States Delegation considers that the many complex factors involved in large-scale resettlement operations and the desirability that the Organization consider each proposed resettlement project on an individual basis make it advisable for the budget of the Organization to include a sum sufficient for reasonably anticipated projects without specification of the number of individuals who may be involved in such projects, or the per capita cost."

The following delegations associated themselves with this reservation:

United Kingdom, Peru, France, China and Norway.

DECISION: The Soviet Delegate dis-associated himself with the content of this paragraph but it was agreed to include it in the report.

ANNEX I

Paragraph 1

This paragraph was adopted without comment.

Paragraph 2

This paragraph fell.

Paragraph 3

This paragraph was adopted without comment.

Paragraph 4 (a)

This paragraph was adopted without comment.

Paragraph 4 (b)

At the suggestion of the United Kingdom Delegate and in order to avoid giving any false impression that the sub-committee had altered the assumption that Germany was to bear as large a burden of the expenses of the IRO as possible, this paragraph was redrafted to read as follows:

"The estimated cost per day for care and maintenance of displaced persons in camps was reduced to 45%. This represents a reduction in the estimated cost of imported supplies. The Ad Hoc Committee wishes to emphasize that this estimate, like the previous estimate, will not cover the full cost of maintenance but that this amount is supplementary to the amounts to be derived from indigenous supplies. It has always been assumed that the greatest possible part of the burden will be borne by the German economy, and the change incorporated in this Report is based upon the estimate that a larger part of the burden will be borne by the German economy. It is also emphasized that the Ad Hoc Committee reiterates the assumption of the Committee on Finances of the IRO that the Occupying Authorities will maintain a large part of existing facilities for handling supplies and for maintaining camp accommodations without cost to the IRO."

Paragraph 4 (c)

Sir Herbert EMERSON (Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees) considered that some specific reference to the Spanish Republican refugees under the care of the IGC should be made in this paragraph or elsewhere in the report.

Miss HENDERSON (Secretariat) pointed out that the report was not replacing document E/REF.FIN/23 but must be regarded as a supplement to it.

Mr. PITBLADO (UNITED KINGDOM) thereupon suggested that some statement to this effect should be included in the report.

DECISION: Paragraph 4 (c) was redrafted to read as follows:

"The amount of \$1,880,000 for supplies for refugees in Europe and \$625,000 for Spanish Republican refugees now receiving assistance through the IGC have been included in this Section; also the item of \$400,000 for the care of refugees within the mandate of the IRO, but not covered by existing relief programmes, is included in the total. The delegate for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reserved his position on the amounts allocated for care of refugees in Spain, Portugal and Shanghai."

The following additional paragraph was added to paragraph 8 of the report:

"The Committee wishes to emphasize that the substitution of revised estimates is without prejudice to other sections of the Report of the Committee on Finances of the IRO not directly affected by the amount of the estimates. This report must be read in conjunction with Document E/Ref.Fin/23, which was not included in its entirety in the terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Committee."

Paragraph 4 (d)

This paragraph was adopted without comment.

Paragraph 5 (a)

Mr. YANG (CHINA) drew attention to the fact that the second and third reference in this paragraph to the figure 62,911 was incorrect. The figure represented a calculation put forward by the Chinese Delegation and should read 162,911. Mr. Yang then proposed the addition of the following sentence to this paragraph:

"Of course, if it should be found possible by the Organization to repatriate a larger number of Overseas Chinese during the first year than the number now estimated, a supplementary budget may have to be drawn up."

DECISION: Paragraph 5 (a) as amended was adopted.

Paragraphs 5 (b) to 6

These paragraphs were adopted without comment.

The CHAIRMAN raised the question which had been brought up by the Norwegian Delegate in this morning's meeting of the Council, that is, whether the reference to the first financial year of the IRO was not misleading in view of the fact that the Organization would not commence operations until some time after the beginning of 1947.

After a short discussion it was decided that this question should be left to the discretion of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 7:15 p.m.