



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
RESTRICTED

A/CN.2/R.116
15 October 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS
Sixteenth session, 15 October 1957
New York

ASSESSMENT OF POLAND

The following communication has been addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions by the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations and is submitted to the Committee for consideration:

"New York, 15 October 1957

Upon instructions of my Government I have the honour to ask you to present before the Committee on Contributions Poland's request to lower its percentage contribution to the United Nations budget.

Under the existing decisions of the General Assembly the percentage of the contribution to this budget is conditioned inter alia by the situation of each particular of the U.N. Members in its capacity to pay in foreign currencies and in the domain of reconstruction of war damages. Both of these conditions would point at present to the necessity of lowering the Polish percentage contribution.

The position of the balance of payments in Poland is, in fact, extremely difficult owing to the combined effect of an unusually heavy burden of reconstruction during the past 6-8 years which are not yet able to bring its full effects in the field of exports while, at the same time, necessitating heavy import payments for raw materials and food. Efforts are being made to cope with the existing lack of balance of payments equilibrium but this action will bring results only after a number of years. That is why during the next period even the smallest economies in foreign currency outlays are of special importance.

Poland's contribution has risen from 0.95 per cent in 1950 to 1.73 per cent in 1955, i.e. approximately 85 per cent. During the years 1955-1957 it decreased to 1.56 per cent mainly as a result of scale readjustment after admission of sixteen new members.

The present Polish contribution amounting to 1.65 per cent of the United Nations' budget is too heavy a burden on my country, particularly when the reason given above and the contribution paid in 1950 will be taken into account.

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"May I be permitted, Sir, to express my hope that the Committee on Contributions will find the reasons listed above convincing in taking sympathetic decision with regard to the request of my Government.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Jerzy MICHALOWSKI
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Poland
to the United Nations
