



Seventh session
Agenda item 48

UNITED NATIONS POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. K.G. BRENNAN (Australia)

1. The General Assembly on 16 November 1950 adopted resolution 454 (V) requesting the Secretary-General to proceed with the conclusion of a draft Postal Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America and with the necessary arrangements for the establishment of a United Nations Postal Administration. The General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, not later than the beginning of its seventh session, a comprehensive report on the establishment of the Postal Administration and on its subsequent operations.
2. The report (A/2191 and 2191/Add.1) submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with the above resolution, together with the observations thereon of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/2237), were considered by the Fifth Committee at its 348th meeting on 27 October 1952.
3. The General Assembly was informed in the Secretary-General's report that, as a result of consultations between him and the United States authorities concerned, agreement had been reached on the provision of facilities to the visiting public at United Nations Headquarters for the purchase of United Nations stamps either for mailing or for philatelic purposes. The operation of such facilities would require, however, the deletion from paragraph (ii) of section 3 of the Postal Agreement (as annexed to resolution 454 (V)) of the restrictive provision under which philatelic sales by the United Nations Postal Administration may be made only "in response to orders received by mail". Accordingly, the Secretary-General, after reviewing the arrangements made pursuant to the General Assembly instructions and the results achieved, presented in his report (A/2191/Add.1) for the

consideration of the General Assembly, a draft resolution authorizing him to conclude the instrument necessary to revise the Agreement in the manner indicated.

4. The Advisory Committee, in its report (A/2237) observed that experience since the coming into force of the Agreement on 24 October 1951 had proved generally satisfactory and that the amendment referred to, in which the United States Government had concurred, was the only revision which the Secretary-General had found it necessary to propose. It further noted that philatelic sales to visitors to United Nations Headquarters amounting to not less than \$20,000 per annum, and probably exceeding that figure, might be expected to result from the additional facilities which the proposed amendment of the Agreement would make possible. The draft resolution, as presented by the Secretary-General, was accordingly recommended for approval.

5. There being no discussion, the Fifth Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

REVISION OF THE POSTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The General Assembly,

Noting the provisions of the Postal Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America, concluded by the Secretary-General on behalf of the United Nations on 28 March 1951 in conformity with a request contained in General Assembly resolution 454 (V) of 16 November 1950,

Having considered a report by the Secretary-General on certain difficulties arising in the application of this Agreement with respect to the purchase of United Nations postage stamps by the visiting public at United Nations Headquarters,

Noting the arrangements proposed by the Secretary-General as to the future operation of postal services at United Nations Headquarters,

Noting in particular that an amendment to the Postal Agreement consisting of the deletion of the words "in response to orders received by mail" at the end of the first sentence of paragraph (ii) of section 3 of the Agreement will be required to bring these arrangements into effect,

Authorizes the Secretary-General to conclude the instrument necessary to revise the Postal Agreement with the United States of America as provided in the preceding paragraph.



Seventh session
Agenda item 42

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1953

International Bureau for Declarations of Death
(Supplementary estimates for section 20)

Ninth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions to the seventh session of the General Assembly

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered a report by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/506) submitting supplementary estimates for 1953 in respect of the International Bureau for Declarations of Death which was established on 1 October 1952 within the United Nations Office at Geneva for the purposes set forth in the Convention on the Declaration of Death of Missing Persons.
2. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Conference which established the Convention in April 1950 recommended that the expenses of the Bureau should be borne by the United Nations, on the ground that the work to be done by the Bureau represented a debt owed to the victims of the Second World War and on the further ground that relatives of such victims might not have adequate resources, financial or other, to establish their legal rights. While not dissenting from this recommendation in so far as it concerns indigent applicants, the Committee suggests that, where hardship would not result, payment should be required for services which the Bureau renders. Such an arrangement would seem reasonable, particularly in cases where, for example, the work of the Bureau serves to establish a legal interest in a missing person's estate. It is in any case recommended that a charge should be made for items such as photostat copies and certificates.
3. On the details of the estimates submitted, the Advisory Committee considers that, for the first full year of operation, official travel and miscellaneous

expenses may be over-estimated, and that reductions of \$700 and \$1,500 respective could be effected on these items.

4. Accordingly, the Committee recommends an appropriation of \$12,500 under section 20 of the 1953 budget, representing a reduction of \$2,200 in the figure submitted.

5. The salaries of the staff of the Bureau, as proposed in the Secretary-General's report, are gross, and the offsetting revenue in respect of contribution under the Staff Assessment Plan is estimated at \$2,200. Further revenue may accrue if the recommendations in paragraph 2 above are approved.

Analysis of reductions recommended:

Section 20

	\$
- Travel on official business	700
- Miscellaneous expenses	1,500
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Total	2,200
