



Seventh session  
Agenda item 42

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1953

Payment of honoraria to rapporteurs of United Nations bodies

(Financial implications of resolution 442 C (XIV)  
adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its  
fourteenth session - Revised estimates for section 3)

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

1. By resolution 442 C (XIV) of 13 June 1952, the Economic and Social Council decided to appoint, for an experimental period of one year, and in a personal capacity, a rapporteur on matters relating to freedom of information. The cost of implementing this decision was estimated by the Secretary-General at \$8,800, including a sum of \$2,500 to cover the payment of an honorarium to the rapporteur (A/C.5/498, paragraph 9).
2. At its 356th meeting on 7 November 1952, the Fifth Committee, when considering the proposed provision of \$2,500, decided to refer to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for review and study, a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America (A/C.5/L.187), which reads as follows:  
    "The General Assembly,  
    "Noting a decision by an organ of the United Nations to pay an honorarium to a rapporteur,  
    "Recalling its previously expressed inclination to concur in the payment of such honoraria in exceptional cases only,  
    "Instructs all organs of the United Nations to obtain prior General Assembly approval of all such decisions before entering into commitments to pay honoraria".

3. In a previous report on this item dated 1 November 1952<sup>1/</sup>, the Advisory Committee deprecated the payment of honoraria to rapporteurs of United Nations bodies and recommended, as an alternative, that provision should be made in this particular case on a per diem basis.

4. The Advisory Committee associates itself with the purposes contemplated in the United States draft resolution. The alternative text which the Committee recommends below is merely designed to lay emphasis on those purposes by affirming the principle that the office of rapporteur in the United Nations, being an office of honour, not profit, carries no emoluments. Furthermore, the omission of the final paragraph of the United States text is recommended in view of the fact that funds of the United Nations cannot lawfully be committed by its organs, except by specific or delegated authority of the General Assembly. No committee or commission has the power of commitment except after examination of the proposed expenditure and recommendation by the Fifth Committee.

Draft resolution submitted by the Advisory Committee  
on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for  
consideration by the Fifth Committee

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the appointment of a person as rapporteur of a United Nations body confers honour upon his country and distinction upon himself,

1. Considers that no such appointment should carry remuneration;
2. Requests all organs of the United Nations to bear in mind in future the views of the General Assembly as expressed in the present resolution.

1/ A/2245, paragraph 11.