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Agenda item 42

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1953

Public information activities of the United Nations

(Revised estimates for sections 13, 21 and 26 (items relating
to public information))Twelfth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions to the seventh session of the General Assembly

1. At its 351st meeting on 29 October 1952, the Fifth Committee adopted the following proposal:

"The Fifth Committee decides to refer the public information estimates for 1953 back to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with a request that efforts be made, in consultation with the Secretary-General and in the light of the discussions, to reach a solution agreeable to both, for presentation to the Fifth Committee at an early date."

The discussions in question are recorded in the summary records of the 349th to 351st meetings of the Fifth Committee. The estimates as proposed by the Secretary-General, on the one hand, and as recommended by the Advisory Committee, on the other, appear in document A/C.5/L.181.

2. A marked division of opinion was disclosed during the discussions in the Fifth Committee, some delegations concurring in the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, others favouring additional reductions, and yet others moving for the partial or total restoration of the amounts recommended by the latter Committee for reduction.

3. In accordance with the Fifth Committee's request, the Advisory Committee invited the Secretary-General to attend its meeting of 6 November 1952 for the purpose envisaged by the Fifth Committee. At that meeting the Secretary-General was requested to submit any fresh evidence in support of his contention that

excessive reductions^{1/} had been recommended by the Advisory Committee in its report on the budget estimates.

4. While the Advisory Committee has received no evidence or additional data to warrant a change in its earlier position, it has taken under careful consideration an exchange of communications between its Chairman and the Secretary-General subsequent to the date of the latter's meeting with the Committee. In his communication the Secretary-General states his conclusion that "in view of the general ceiling on the 1953 budget necessitating further economies in all fields", the restoration requested by him under the information sections of the budget should be \$57,500 instead of \$137,500. The Secretary-General further considers that, if authority is granted to him for the transfer of credits between these sections (sections 13, 20 (chapter II), 21 and 26 (items relating to public information), he will be better able to concentrate expenditure on essential services. Moreover, the Advisory Committee would be reluctant in present circumstances to recommend a solution at variance with that put forward by the Secretary-General, which appears to accord generally with the intent of the resolution adopted by the Fifth Committee. But for these considerations, the Advisory Committee would not have found sufficient grounds on which to vary recommendations made after exhaustive study of the information services of the United Nations and of the Secretary-General's original budget proposals for 1953.^{2/}

5. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends the provisional restoration, in first reading of the 1953 estimates, of a global amount of \$57,500 in respect of sections 13, 21 and 26 (items relating to public information). This recommendation is made without prejudice to the over-all economies which the Secretary-General will propose under the terms of the United Kingdom proposal (A/C.5/L.184) as amended.

6. The Advisory Committee is also prepared to recommend the maintenance during 1953 of the practice under which the Secretary-General is authorized to transfer at his own discretion funds between appropriation sections 13, 20 (chapter II), 21 and 26 (items relating to public information).

^{1/} A/2157. Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session Supplement No. 7.

^{2/} A/2125, Ibid., Supplement No. 5.

Analysis of revised reductions recommended

	<u>Reduction originally recommended by the Advisory Committee (A/2157)</u>	<u>Provisional restoration recommended by the Advisory Committee</u>	<u>Reduction on Secretary-General's original estimates (A/2125)</u>
	\$	\$	\$
Section 13	60,000	{	
Section 21	32,300		
Section 26 (chapter I, items (vii) and (xi); chapter II, item (ii))	45,200		80,000
	<u>\$137,500</u>	<u>\$57,500</u>	<u>\$80,000</u>
