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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1957

Revised Estimate for Section 18:
United Nations Office at Geneva

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Language Services of the United Nations Office at Geneva are experiencing increasing difficulty in dealing with the growing volume of Russian translation work, mainly of current documents required for the meetings of ECE and its various committees. The office has received numerous complaints from delegations that their work has been hampered by the non-availability of working documents in the Russian language.
2. It is estimated that the total workload of Russian translation in 1956 will exceed 22,000 pages, as against 17,301 pages in 1955 and 15,155 pages in 1954. This substantial increase has resulted largely from the number of ECE meetings scheduled - 859 (half days) for 1956 as compared with 721 in 1955 and 527 in 1954. The number of meetings for 1957 will, if possible, be held to approximately the same level as in 1956. Increased participation of Member States, especially of the Russian speaking countries in the committee work of ECE has, too, led to a marked increase in translation and the typing work in the pools. Furthermore, the tendency will be towards a larger volume of documentation, along with the progressively fuller use by ECE, in dealing with a larger programme, of the system of unpaid Government rapporteurs and experts.
3. In order to deal with the steadily growing workload, a number of the permanent translation staff from other language sections have been moved to the Geneva Russian Section during 1955 and 1956, thereby increasing the established post strength

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from a previous twelve to the present sixteen posts. Due to the heavy workloads prevailing in other areas, any further shifts of permanent staff to the Russian Section are not considered feasible.

4. The sixteen established posts in the Russian Translation Section and the eighteen posts in the Russian Stenographic Pool have proved inadequate for the greatly increased workload. The accumulation of backlogs has made it necessary as an interim measure, to supplement the regular staff by temporary assistance, to the extent permitted by the limited budgetary funds available. In 1955 an amount of \$13,200 was spent on temporary assistance for additional Russian translation and typing requirements. In 1956, the large increase in the volume of work points to an expenditure of about \$27,000. In spite of the increased use of temporary assistance, the Russian backlog, at the end of September 1956, still comprised over 1,600 pages, mostly of ECE working documents and reports, as compared with 1,538 pages at the end of 1955 and 206 pages at the close of 1954.

5. In an effort to find an effective solution to the problem, a study has been made of the minimum strength which would have to be added to the present Geneva Language Services in order to meet requirements for the servicing of meetings of ECE and its committees, whilst avoiding the unsatisfactory situation caused by large backlogs. In the opinion of the Secretary-General, the study has shown that a permanent strengthening of the Russian translation and typing establishment would be justified to the extent of two professional and two General Service established posts.

6. To meet the cost of these posts would require an additional provision under Chapter I, article (1) of section 18 of the 1957 budget, estimated at \$20,400. The details of this estimate are as follows:

Conference and General Services
Language and Stenographic Division

<u>No. of additional posts</u>	<u>Category and post level</u>	<u>Gross salaries</u> \$
	<u>Professional</u>	
2	Second Officer	14,660
	<u>General Service</u> (Dollar equivalent of local salary scale)	
2	Level 3	\$5,500
	Add: Cost of living adjustment	<u>240</u>
	Total	<u><u>\$20,400</u></u>

7. The Secretary-General accordingly revises the estimates submitted for section 18 from a total of \$5,906,200 (\$5,746,200 in A/3126 and \$160,000 in A/C.5/659) to \$5,926,600.
