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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1958

Revised Estimates for Sections 6, 7 and 8

(Report of the Secretary-General)

1. General Assembly resolution 1096 (XI) enumerates, among the requests for additional appropriations for 1958 which may be submitted after the main budget estimates have been circulated to Member States, "those in respect of projects which the Secretary-General certifies to be of the highest urgency and which could not have been foreseen at the time the main budget estimates were circulated". The Secretary-General invokes the authority accorded to him under this provision to place before the General Assembly the urgent additional requirements for 1958 which are associated with the establishment, in the ECAFE region, of a Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the lower Mekong Basin.
2. At its session in May 1957, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East endorsed the wish expressed in a joint statement by the delegations of the lower Mekong riparian countries (Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam) that the water resources studies being carried out jointly by the Commission Secretariat with the four countries concerned should be continued in order to determine with more detail in what measure the various projects concerning hydro-electric power, navigation, irrigation, drainage, and flood control could be of use to several of the countries. (Paragraphs 277 and 278 of E/2959.)
3. The decision of ECAFE to support joint action by four riparian countries in the development of the lower Mekong Basin was endorsed by the Council at its twenty-fourth session [resolution 655 B (XXIV)]. Reference to the decision as a

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practical example of collaboration in integrated river basin development, in which the United Nations has a special role to play, has been made by the Secretary-General in the recently issued Introduction to his Annual Report on the Work of the Organization. (A/3594/Add.1.)

4. When the Secretary-General submitted to the twenty-fourth session of the Council his statement of the financial implications of proposals which the Council had under consideration, he was not in a position to assess with certainty whether the continued collaboration of the ECAFE secretariat with the four riparian countries would entail new budgetary requirements. He informed the Council that the question whether new budgetary requirements should be contemplated would depend upon actual developments regionally over the coming months. (Page 5 of E/3044.)

5. Information has now been received from the Executive Secretary of the Commission that a Preparatory Committee composed of representatives of the four riparian Governments met in Bangkok from 16 to 18 September 1957, to consider the establishment of a committee for co-ordination. The Preparatory Committee unanimously approved the final text of the Statute of the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations, a copy of which is annexed to the present report. It will be seen that article 3 of the Statute calls upon the Secretariat of the Commission to co-operate with the Committee in the performance of the latter's functions. These functions are to promote, co-ordinate, supervise and control the planning and investigation of water resources development projects in the lower Mekong Basin. The Preparatory Committee also formulated provisional Rules of procedure for adoption by the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations at its first session, to be held in Phnom-Penh (Cambodia) on 31 October 1957. Under the rules of procedure it is contemplated that the Executive Secretary of the Commission will provide the secretariat for the Committee and will make all necessary arrangements for consultation, including the preparation of documents, the holding of meetings and the drafting of records.

6. Within the framework of this endeavour as a whole, financial requirements arise both in respect of general planning services and in respect of individual technical projects. In so far as the technical projects are concerned, these will require the assistance of a large number of experts and also of some engineering firms. Such assistance is expected to be forthcoming through the submission of

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requests by the local Governments concerned to multilateral and bilateral assistance programmes, including specifically the United Nations Expanded Programme for Technical Assistance. Thus the only costs involved which require to be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations are those relating to general planning services.

7. Arrangements under which the Commission is assisting the four riparian countries are proceeding in 1957 within existing budgetary resources. In view of the successful steps now taken in establishing the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations, it becomes imperative to assure the availability of a small and highly competent staff within the Commission which can service the new Committee on a continuing basis.

8. The Secretary-General has approved the Executive Secretary's proposal that a small, specially constituted unit be created in the ECAFE Secretariat, as part of the Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development, to consist of one experienced planning engineer at Senior Professional level, one assisting Professional officer, also experienced in planning of water resources development and lay-out of hydraulic structures, and three general service staff members who would provide secretarial, clerical and drafting services.

9. The additional costs involved for 1958 are:

Section 6

1 P5 Officer	\$12,500
1 P4 Officer	10,540
3 General Service Staff	8,140
one Professional Assistant	
one bilingual secretary	
one tracer/computer	
Post adjustment for Professional Posts . .	<u>4,370</u>
Total	\$35,550

Section 7

Related Common Staff Costs	7,100
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Section 8

Travel on Official Business

Consultation with Governments, including provision for one overseas trip for purposes of policy consultation if required	<u>4,000</u>
TOTAL REQUIREMENTS . .	<u>\$46,650</u>

10. In submitting the above supplementary requirements, the Secretary-General has taken into account the provisions in his initial estimates which would relate to the continuing needs of ECAFE. Specifically, the present request for additional travel funds is lower than the probable amount to be spent, since, to a certain extent, the existing travel amounts assigned to ECAFE would be expected to absorb some of the new requirements. In the matter of staff provisions, however, the Secretary-General believes that postponement of other high priority work within the Commission, which has taken place during the past year in order to service this project, should not be continued indefinitely. It is for this reason that his statement of funds required includes the entire cost of the complement of staff required for the new unit.

11. As to the financing of these new costs, the Secretary-General would foresee possibilities of meeting them in full from within the limits of his initial budget estimates as they have been revised on the basis of actions of the Economic and Social Council. This would, it is true, entail a certain shift in the anticipated distribution of established posts within the Secretariat as a whole, including perhaps the regrading of one or two posts. The Secretary-General is prepared to take measures to this end, and on the assumption that the means for doing so will be assured, no further revision of the budget estimates presently before the General Assembly is submitted at this time.

ANNEX^{*}

COMMITTEE FOR CO-ORDINATION OF INVESTIGATIONS
OF THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN

STATUTE

As adopted at the meeting on 17 September 1957 of the Preparatory Committee to consider the establishment of the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin (ECAFE/WRD/5/Rev.3)

CHAPTER I - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin (hereinafter called the Committee) is established by the Governments of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam (hereinafter called the participating Governments), in response to the decision taken by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (hereinafter called the Commission) at its thirteenth session. By this decision, reported in paragraph 277 of the Commission's annual report for the period 15 February 1956 to 28 March 1957, the Commission endorsed the wish of the participating Governments that secretariat studies relating to the development of the lower Mekong Basin, namely, the area of the drainage basin of the Mekong river situated in the territory of the participating Governments, be continued jointly with the participating Governments. The participating Governments have set up the Committee to perform the functions contained in the present Statute.

CHAPTER II - ORGANIZATION

Article 1

1. The Committee shall be composed of four members.
2. Each participating Government will appoint one member with plenipotentiary authority and such alternates, experts and advisers as it desires.

* Previously issued in ECAFE/WRD/7.

Article 2

The chairmanship of the Committee shall be held in turn by the members of the Committee, in the alphabetical order of the member countries. Each member shall hold office for one year.

CHAPTER III - CO-OPERATION WITH THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMISSION

Article 3

In accordance with the decision of the Commission at its thirteenth session, the secretariat of the Commission shall co-operate with the Committee in the performance of the latter's functions.

CHAPTER IV - FUNCTIONS

Article 4

The functions of the Committee are to promote, co-ordinate, supervise and control the planning and investigation of water resources development projects in the lower Mekong Basin. To these ends the Committee may:

- (a) prepare and submit to participating Governments plans for carrying out co-ordinated research, study and investigation;
- (b) make requests on behalf of the participating Governments for special financial and technical assistance and receive and administer separately such financial and technical assistance as may be offered under the Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and friendly Governments;^{1/}
- (c) draw up and recommend to participating Governments principles for the use of the water of the main river for the purpose of water resources development.

^{1/} It is understood that this paragraph will become operative as soon as all of the four Governments concerned have individually notified the Executive Chairman of TAB that they have expressly authorized the Committee to make requests on their behalf for technical assistance relating to the development of the lower Mekong Basin.

CHAPTER V - SESSIONS

Article 5

1. Subject to the provisions of this Statute, the Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure.
2. A quorum for any meeting shall be constituted by three members.
3. Decisions of the Committee shall be by a consensus of the members present.
4. The Executive Secretary of the Commission or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any questions under consideration.

CHAPTER VI - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 6

The Committee shall submit reports to participating Governments and annually to the Commission. Such reports, or summaries thereof, may be made available to other Governments and international organizations on the recommendations of the Committee.

Article 7

The Committee may invite representatives of Governments and of specialized agencies to attend meetings of the Committee in the capacity of observers.

Article 8

1. Nothing contained in the present Statute shall be deemed to abrogate or invalidate in any way the provisions of any international convention presently in force and relating to the Mekong.
2. Amendments to the present Statute which may be proposed by any participating Government, shall be examined by the Committee and shall take effect when approved by all participating Governments.
