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UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE

Draft report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jaime de PINIES (Spain)

1. On 22 November 1957, the General Assembly requested the Fifth Committee, with the assistance of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to examine in the light of General Assembly resolution 1151 (XII), the cost estimates for maintaining the United Nations Emergency Force contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/3694) with a view to making such recommendations as it considered appropriate concerning the expenditure authorized under paragraph 3 of that resolution.
2. The Fifth Committee undertook the requested examination at its 639th meeting. The views of delegations^{1/} on the several aspects of the matter which were commented on in the discussion are set out in the Official Records of that meeting. The present report is confined solely to questions directly related to the cost estimates and to the recommendation which the Fifth Committee decided to propose for adoption by the General Assembly at its current session.
3. To assist in its consideration of the matter, the Committee had before it the twenty-sixth report of the Advisory Committee to the twelfth session of the General Assembly (A/3761).

^{1/} Delegations of Albania, Brazil, Byelorussian SSR, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Finland, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Spain, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

4. In dealing with the estimates for the first financial period ending on 31 December 1957, the Advisory Committee pointed out that earlier estimates had been submitted by the Secretary-General in July 1957 and that the actions taken by the Secretary-General on certain recommendations it had made on that occasion were reflected in the revised estimates which the Secretary-General had now presented as an annex to document A/3694. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee had concluded that, on the basis of the estimates now presented and taking into account the financial obligations which were expected to arise in 1957 as a result of the General Assembly's decision to reimburse Participating Governments for the special allowances paid by them to members of the contingents serving with UNEF as well as for extra and extraordinary costs relating to pay and allowances, a sum of \$30 million for the first financial period would be adequate.

5. The Advisory Committee's report was concerned principally, however, with the expenditures which would be incurred against the \$25 million authorized by the General Assembly for the continuing operation of the Force beyond 31 December 1957. In this regard the Committee reported that, according to testimony which had been given to it, 1958 expenditures were expected to be higher than in 1957 for two categories of expenses (transportation of military personnel, and welfare and recreation) but lower for almost all the remaining seventeen categories of expense. It pointed out, that it had been handicapped in its review of anticipated expenditure for 1958 by the lack of more formal budget estimates for that year. In the circumstances, although it realized that the extent to which Governments would seek reimbursement for supplies and services furnished were uncertain, the Committee recommended that a formal budget for 1958 should be prepared and published as soon as possible. It recommended further that initially the budget should cover the first half-year and that, in view of the lower rate foreseen for many items, the total for that period should not exceed \$9 to \$10 million, exclusive of extra and extraordinary expenses as approved for reimbursement by the Organization in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 1151 (XII). It also recommended that estimates for the full year should subsequently be made available in time for review by the Advisory Committee during its first session of 1958.

6. On the question of the administrative organization and controls of the Force the Advisory Committee recognized the problems created by the emergency situation that existed in 1956 and early 1957 and stated its impression that, with a few exceptions, the administrative controls are well conceived and adequate if fully applied. The Committee indicated, therefore, that the paramount need now is to make special efforts to ensure that the existing procedures are adequately implemented and enforced.

7. The Advisory Committee, in the final section of its report (paragraphs 9-15) pointed out a number of areas of expenditure which it felt were deserving of further attention with a view to reducing the current rate of expenditure during the course of 1958.

8. The representative of the Secretary-General gave an assurance that a budget in respect of the first six months of 1958 would be prepared and published in the early future; a budget in respect of the full year would, moreover, be submitted in time for consideration at the Advisory Committee's first session in 1958.

9. In the course of the ensuing discussion a number of the members of the Committee expressed satisfaction with the report of the Advisory Committee and announced their intention of supporting the recommendations it contained. Many members expressed concern at the high cost of the Force. They therefore welcomed the Advisory Committee's indication in paragraph 4 of its report that the Secretary-General anticipated a lower level of expenditure for 1958 for most of the categories of the budget. They also endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 7 of its report that special efforts should be made to ensure that existing procedures for the administration and control of the Force were adequately implemented and enforced and approved the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraphs 9 to 15 of its report that attention be paid to certain specific categories of expenditure in which they believed possibilities for reducing the current rate of expenditure existed. Members referred specifically to such matters as the desirability of obtaining competitive bids for supplies and services whenever possible, now that the initial emergency had passed; the achievement of a lower cost average per man for rations; the increased employment of locally recruited personnel for the performance of non-military tasks; the possibility of abandoning the airlift between Naples and the Middle East; more extensive

control of the consumption of fuel; curtailment of travel by members of the United Nations Secretariat now that the operation of the Force was on a more routine basis.

10. Attention was drawn to the fact that the expenditures incurred to date would have been appreciably higher without the generous provision by a number of countries of special assistance without charge in the form of supplies and services.

Action taken by the Committee

11. The Committee decided, by 45 votes to 10, with 6 abstentions, to recommend the following resolution for adoption by the General Assembly:

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The General Assembly

Takes note, with approval, of the observations and recommendations contained in the twenty-sixth report (A/3761) of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly (twelfth session).
