

UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/C.5/31/2  
15 June 1976

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-first session  
FIFTH COMMITTEE  
Item 91 of the provisional agenda\*  
92

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1976-1977

Comprehensive study of the question of honoraria payable to members  
of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 2444th plenary meeting, on 17 December 1975, based on a report of the Fifth Committee (A/10500), the General Assembly adopted resolution 3536 (XXX), which included a request to the Secretary-General to submit to the thirty-first session of the General Assembly for its consideration a comprehensive study of the question of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations. That request was the outgrowth of a report submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1677) to the thirtieth session in which he expressed the view that some reasonable adjustment to the honoraria currently payable to members of the International Law Commission, the International Narcotics Control Board and the Administrative Tribunal appeared to be appropriate, taking into account the substantial reduction in the purchasing power of the amounts involved as a result of inflation and other economic factors since they were initially established in 1957, 1967 and 1969, respectively. The annual payments proposed by the Secretary-General compared with the current payments in respect of the three subsidiary organs were as follows:

---

\* A/31/50.

	President or Chairman		Vice-Presidents		Other members		Special rapporteurs	
	Current	Pro- posed	Current	Pro- posed	Current	Pro- posed	Current	Pro- posed
	(in US dollars)							
International Law Commission <u>1/</u>	2,500	4,000	-		1,000	1,500	2,500	4,000
International Narcotics Control Board	2,500	4,000	1,500	2,500	1,000	1,500	-	
United Nations Adminis- trative Tribunal	2,500	4,000	-		1,000	1,500	-	

2. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its report (A/10008/Add.3), indicated that it was unable to recommend approval of the Secretary-General's proposals, since the payment of those honoraria had been authorized by the General Assembly as exceptions to the basic principle that neither a fee nor any other remuneration in addition to subsistence allowances and travel expenses shall normally be paid to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations. Also, there was no indication in the record to suggest that the Assembly had intended that the payments, which were considered to be of a token nature, would be subject to adjustment to compensate, in whole or in part, for the subsequent loss of purchasing power.

3. The Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, decided until further notice to maintain the current level of payments of honoraria to the three subsidiary organs and requested the submission of the present study at its thirty-first session.

4. This is the third time that the General Assembly has considered the question of honoraria in general. The two earlier occasions were the twelfth and sixteenth sessions of the General Assembly, the first of which originated from a request by the Fifth Committee at its 569th meeting, on 21 January 1957, that it be provided with more detailed background information to assist it in the consideration of a

---

1/ In the case of the International Law Commission, payment above the level indicated for other members to be conditional upon the preparation of specific reports or studies between sessions of the Commission.

proposal by the Sixth Committee that a special allowance of \$15 a day continue to be paid to members of the International Law Commission, in addition to subsistence allowance at the normal uniform rate, as had been provided by General Assembly resolution 485 (V). 2/ On the basis of comprehensive reports submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/713) and the Advisory Committee (A/3705), the Fifth Committee, at its 613th and 615th meetings on 25 and 29 October 1957, respectively, reviewed the over-all system of honoraria and special allowances - as distinct from and in addition to subsistence allowances at established, uniform rates - and recommended 3/ a general system of payments to members of experts bodies which was approved by the General Assembly at its 729th plenary meeting on 13 December 1957 (see para. 16 below).

5. Three years later, a further comprehensive review was requested by the General Assembly at its 960th plenary meeting on 20 December 1960 on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee in its report 4/ on the question of payment of honoraria to the members of the Administrative Tribunal. At the same time, the Assembly endorsed a recommendation by the Fifth Committee that, by way of a further exception to the basic rule, an annual honorarium of \$500 be paid to the President of the Administrative Tribunal, and that, in addition, an honorarium of \$250 for each session be paid to the President and each of the other members participating in the consideration of cases submitted to the Tribunal.

6. On the basis of that further review, which took the form of a report submitted by the Advisory Committee, 5/ which, in its annex, contained a memorandum by the Secretary-General on the same general subject, the Fifth Committee, in its report 6/ to the Assembly, recommended that it be decided to reaffirm the basic principle that no fee or other remuneration, other than travel and subsistence payments, where appropriate, should normally be paid to a rapporteur of a United Nations body or to members serving on organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations in an individual capacity; that like principles should normally govern payments to special representatives or equivalent officials appointed by the Assembly for the performance of ad hoc tasks, unless the draft resolution proposing such appointment expressly provided otherwise and had been accepted by the General Assembly, subject to prior examination and report by the Fifth Committee; and that the payment of honoraria which had already been authorized on an exceptional basis should be continued. Those recommendations were adopted by the Assembly at its 1082nd plenary meeting on 18 December 1961.

---

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Eleventh Session, Annexes, agenda item 53, document A/3539, para. 8.

3/ Ibid., Twelfth Session, Annexes, agenda item 41, document A/3766, para. 6.

4/ Ibid., Fifteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 50, document A/4609, para. 10.

5/ Ibid., Sixteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 54, document A/4813 and annex.

6/ Ibid., document A/5005, para. 10.

## II. HISTORY OF THE QUESTION

7. A history of the question of the payment of honoraria and the related developments up to 1961 were included in the memorandum of the Secretary-General which was annexed to the report of the Advisory Committee 7/ referred to in the preceding paragraph. The highlights are enumerated below.

8. By resolution 231 (III) of 8 October 1948, the General Assembly, at its 150th plenary meeting, identified the categories of representatives to the General Assembly and members of commissions, committees and other bodies, in respect of which travel expenses and subsistence allowances should be paid, and concurred with the observation of the Advisory Committee that in the case of members of bodies who were selected to serve in an individual capacity such payments represented subsistence but not a fee for services.

9. In 1949, the General Assembly agreed, on the recommendation of the Fifth and Sixth Committees, that an honorarium would be appropriate for the Chairman and Special Rapporteurs of the International Law Commission for reports and studies prepared by them between sessions (see annex, paras. 12-15 below).

10. In 1950, the General Assembly, by its resolution 485 (V), amended article 13 of the Statute of the International Law Commission and authorized the payment to its members, during sessions, of special allowances which exceeded the subsistence allowances, which, at that time, were payable at uniform rates to all entitled persons (see annex, para. 16 below).

11. Resolution 677 (VII) of 21 December 1952 stated that, in respect of rapporteurs of United Nations bodies, the General Assembly "considers that no such appointment should carry remuneration".

12. At the same session, the Assembly authorized payment of an honorarium to the Rapporteur on Freedom of Information appointed under Economic and Social Council resolution 442 C (XIV).

13. In 1954, at the ninth session of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee concluded:

(a) That there were no circumstances which would justify payment of honoraria to rapporteurs or members of bodies for work performed during sessions;

(b) That honoraria should not be paid for work performed between sessions to the President and members of the Administrative Tribunal;

(c) That honoraria should not be paid for work performed between sessions by special rapporteurs.

---

7/ See foot-note 5.

14. By resolution 875 (IX) of 4 December 1954, the Assembly authorized payment of annual honoraria to the President, Vice-President and members of the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Drug Supervisory Body (which were later combined into the International Narcotics Control Board). Stated as considerations justifying the exception were the facts that members of the Board were precluded from holding any office which put them in a position of direct dependence on their Governments and that the payment of some compensation to members of both bodies was justified by work performed during sessions.

15. In 1956, the General Assembly, by its resolution 1075 (XI), consolidated the rules governing the payment to eligible bodies of travel and subsistence expenses and laid down the rule that the established rate of allowances should be uniformly applied. The subsistence allowance was defined as provision for extra expenses which an individual normally incurred in attending an official meeting or session.

16. During the twelfth session of the General Assembly, on 13 December 1957, at its 729th plenary meeting, the Assembly consolidated established practice into a system, which has basically endured since, by approving the recommendations of the Fifth Committee

(a) That subsistence allowances be paid uniformly to members of eligible bodies;

(b) That special additional allowances already authorized in certain cases should be continued, but that they should be converted into lump-sum payments, based on the normal duration of the meetings of the bodies concerned and be considered as honoraria;

(c) That such honoraria should be paid to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee; the President, Vice-President and other members of the Permanent Central Opium Board and of the Drug Supervisory Body and to the Chairman, special rapporteurs and other members of the International Law Commission.

17. At its fifteenth session, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee (A/4609), approved payment of honoraria to the President and members of the Administrative Tribunal.

18. Following a comprehensive review of the question of the payment of honoraria, the Assembly in 1961, at its sixteenth session, adopted the recommendation contained in the related report of the Fifth Committee (A/5005), which

(a) Reaffirmed that no payment should normally be paid to a rapporteur of a United Nations body or to members serving on organs and subsidiary organs in an individual personal capacity;

(b) Decided that like principles should govern payments to special representatives appointed by the Assembly, unless the resolution proposing such appointment expressly so provided and was subject to prior examination and report by the Fifth Committee;

(c) Decided to continue payment of honoraria which had already been authorized.

19. Accordingly, the approved system of payments to members of expert bodies that had evolved up to the end of 1961 can be summarized as follows:

(a) There should be only two types of payments to members of expert bodies of the United Nations:

(i) Subsistence allowance;

(ii) Payments additional to that allowance (honoraria).

#### Subsistence allowance

(b) The subsistence allowance should be paid uniformly to members of all eligible bodies at the rates approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 1075 (XI) of 7 December 1956 (as modified by resolutions 1588 (XV) of 20 December 1960, and 2491 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968).

#### Honoraria

(c) Payment in addition to subsistence allowance should be made to the following:

(i) The Chairman of the Advisory Committee;

(ii) The President, Vice-President and the other members of the Permanent Central Opium Board and of the Drug Supervisory Body in accordance with General Assembly resolution 875 C (IX) of 4 December 1954;

(iii) The Chairman, the special rapporteurs and the other members of the International Law Commission;

(iv) The President and members of the Administrative Tribunal.

#### Methods of payment

(d) (i) Additional payments should be consolidated and should be paid as honoraria in the following lump sums:

	<u>Dollars</u> <u>per year</u>
Chairmen of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	5,000 <u>8/</u>
President of the Permanent Central Opium Board	1,000 <u>9/</u>
Vice-President of the Permanent Central Opium Board	500 <u>9/</u>
Other members of the Permanent Central Opium Board	300 <u>9/</u>
President of the Drug Supervisory Body	1,000 <u>9/</u>
Vice-President of the Drug Supervisory Body	500 <u>9/</u>
Other members of the Drug Supervisory Body	300 <u>9/</u>
Chairman of the International Law Commission	2,500 <u>10/</u>
Special rapporteurs of the International Law Commission	2,500 <u>10/</u>
Other members of the International Law Commission	1,000 <u>10/</u>
President of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal	500
President and other members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal: \$250 for each session to be paid to the President and each of the other members participating in the consideration of cases submitted to the Tribunal.	

(ii) The above sums should be payable for any year during which the recipient attended the meetings of the body of which he was a member.

20. Since 1961, a number of further individual decisions have been taken by the General Assembly in respect of honoraria.

21. The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 which came into force on 13 December 1964 established that the International Narcotics Control Board would

8/ Honorarium to be paid only so long as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee was not in the service of his Government.

9/ In case of membership in both bodies, only a single honorarium to be paid.

10/ In the case of the International Law Commission, payment of the higher of the two sums to be conditional upon the preparation of specific reports or studies between sessions of the Commission.

replace the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Drug Supervisory Body. Article 10, paragraph 6 of this Convention provided that: "The members of the Board shall receive an adequate remuneration as determined by the General Assembly." On 19 December 1967, the General Assembly by resolution 2368 (XXII) decided to pay honoraria to the members of the INCB on the following basis: (President: \$2,500; Vice-President: \$1,500 and other members \$1,000), payable in the form of a single lump sum for any year during which the recipients attended the meetings of the Board.

22. By resolution 2490 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, the Assembly decided to increase the honoraria payable to the President and members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal to the following level, effective 1 January 1969:

(a) An amount of \$2,500 per year to the President;

(b) An amount of \$500 to the other members in respect of each session in which they participated, provided that the maximum amount paid in any one year should not exceed \$1,000.

23. At the twenty-third session, the General Assembly decided, by resolution 2489 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, that individuals appointed by organs to undertake in their personal capacity the performance of special studies or other ad hoc tasks would not be paid honoraria unless expressly decided upon in the relevant resolution after prior examination by the Fifth Committee, and it confirmed the payment of honoraria to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, the Chairman, special rapporteurs and members of the International Law Commission, the President, Vice-Presidents and members of the International Narcotics Control Board, the President and members of the Administrative Tribunal.

24. By resolution 2889 (XXVI) of 22 December 1971, the Assembly decided to increase the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, effective 1 January 1974, to \$25,000 net per year, provided he was not actively engaged on behalf of his Government or another body.

25. Finally, at its twenty-ninth session, the Assembly, by resolution 3357 (XXIX) of 18 December 1974, approved the statute of the International Civil Service Commission, thereby approving the payment of honoraria to the President and Vice-President as contained in paragraph 1 of article 19, chapter IV of the statute.

26. Therefore, the present position in respect of the annual payments of honoraria is as follows:



Organ or subsidiary organ	President or Chairman	Vice-President or Vice-Chairman	Other members	Special rapporteurs
(in US dollars)				
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	25,000	-	-	-
International Civil Service Commission	50,000	45,000	-	-
International Law Commission <u>11/</u>	2,500	-	1,000	2,500
International Narcotics Control Board	2,500	1,500	1,000	-
United Nations Administrative Tribunal	2,500	-	1,000	-

27. Each of these cases is described in more detail in the special studies contained in the annex to the present report.

### III. PRACTICE IN RESPECT OF PAYMENT OF HONORARIA BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

28. The text of General Assembly resolution 3536 (XXX) was transmitted to the executive heads of the following organizations within the United Nations system, inviting them to submit information on the prevailing practice in their organizations as it related to the payment of honoraria:

- International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Universal Postal Union (UPU)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

11/ See foot-note 1.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

29. ICAO, IMCO and WIPO have indicated that they do not pay honoraria to the members of their organs and subsidiary organs.

30. The responses received from the other organizations are described below.

#### International Labour Organisation

31. Honoraria are paid to judges of the ILO Administrative Tribunal, members of the standing Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, members of commissions of inquiry set up to examine complaints relating to non-observance of ratified conventions and members of bodies analogous to commissions of inquiry. The payment of honoraria to members of these bodies take into account the fact that the members are normally engaged in non-official occupations. Nevertheless, these honoraria are intended to represent token amounts rather than remuneration at the rate appropriate to the level of the services rendered. The amounts of the honoraria have been modified by the Governing Body on occasion in the light of such factors as inflation and currency changes. In all cases, fares for travel are payable in addition to the honorarium; in some cases, subsistence is also payable.

#### ILO Administrative Tribunal

32. The rate of honorarium, effective 1 January 1968, is 400 Swiss francs per day for the period of attendance at sessions of the Tribunal and related travel time. No additional subsistence allowance is payable. The amount of the honorarium takes into account the fact that a certain number of judgements are based on written proceedings without oral hearings, which reduces the length of sessions while requiring the judges to do more preparatory work outside the session periods than would be the case if oral hearings alone were held.

#### Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations

33. The current rate of honorarium is \$750 for each year in which the member concerned attends the annual session of the Committee. This is additional to a daily subsistence allowance, which is payable for the period of attendance at the session and related travel time at the normal rate for members of committees (equivalent to the standard rate of subsistence allowance applicable at the place of the meeting to ILO staff members, plus 40 per cent). When the first provision for annual honorarium was made in 1964, the Governing Body bore in mind that each member of the Committee acts as reporter to the Committee on a number of Conventions, which entails the examination in advance of the session of a large number of detailed reports from Governments.

Commissions of inquiry set up to examine complaints relating to non-observance of ratified conventions and similar bodies

34. The honoraria for members of these bodies are normally fixed by analogy with those of judges of the ILO Administrative Tribunal. The current rate of honorarium, which was established in 1974, is \$120 per day for the period of attendance at meetings and related travel time. No additional subsistence allowance is payable.

35. In addition, members of the Governing Body whose expenses are met by the ILO (i.e., the employer and worker members and deputy members, or their substitutes) receive a daily subsistence allowance of \$3 per day above the normal rate applicable at the place of the meeting to members of ILO committees.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

36. An honorarium is paid only to the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council. Paragraph 2 of resolution 41/75 of 25 November 1975, adopted by the most recent FAO Conference, states the conditions of appointment, including the allowances attached to the office. These are as follows:

(a) An annual allowance of the equivalent of \$10,000 to cover representation expenses and secretarial assistance in the Chairman's home station, on the understanding that the Director-General will provide secretarial assistance when the Chairman attends sessions of the Council or Conference; one half of the allowance shall be payable in United States dollars, the balance being payable, in whole or in part, in the currency of the home country of the Chairman, or in Italian lire, according to his desire;

(b) A per diem allowance at the rate equivalent to that for the Deputy Director-General while the Chairman is absent from his home station on Council business, the allowance being reduced to \$20 per diem while the Chairman is in travel status;

(c) Travel expenses, including the above per diem allowance, to be defrayed by the organization in conformity with its regulations and existing practices when the Chairman attends sessions of the Council, of the Programme and Finance Committees, of the Conference, or when he is invited by the Council or by the Director-General to travel for other purposes.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

37. Rule 59 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board of UNESCO expressly forbids payment of honoraria to Executive Board members. The only additional payments made in excess of travel expenses and subsistence allowances are reimbursement to Board members of office expenses, when requested, up to \$100 per year and representational allowance of \$5,000 per year to the Chairman of the Executive Board.

/...

World Health Organization

38. Honoraria are not paid to members of WHO organs and subsidiary organs. However, members of the Executive Board and its ad hoc committees and of expert committees, study groups and scientific groups are paid subsistence allowances of 40 per cent above the standard per diem rate. Members of the Executive Board and its ad hoc committees receive \$3 per diem in addition to the rate indicated above.

Universal Postal Union

39. Honoraria are not paid to members of UPU organs and subsidiary organs, except that the President of the Executive Council receives a lump-sum payment of 5,000 Swiss francs per year, which was approved in 1962, as compensation for the expenses resulting from his functions.

International Telecommunication Union

40. Honoraria are not paid to members of ITU organs and subsidiary organs. However, members of the Administrative Council for the duration of its sessions receive subsistence expenses slightly in excess of the uniform subsistence allowance rates.

World Meteorological Organization

41. Honoraria are not paid to members of WMO organs and subsidiary organs. However, reimbursements for secretarial assistance to the Presidents of the WMO and its regional associations are made, when requested, within the limits approved by the Congress.

International Atomic Energy Agency

42. Honoraria are paid only to members of the Scientific Advisory Committee. The present payment is \$100 per day plus 150 per cent of the uniform subsistence allowance rate. The Scientific Advisory Committee holds one session a year for from three to five days.

IV. OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY THE CHAIRMEN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION AND THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD

43. At the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, during the course of the 1727th meeting of the Fifth Committee, the Chairman expressed the understanding of the Committee that the Secretary-General would take into consideration the views of the International Law Commission and any other relevant views in preparing the present study.

44. The following six paragraphs are extracted from a letter addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management by the Chairman of the International Law Commission in October 1975:

"The arrangements made in 1957 for payment of honoraria to members and special rapporteurs of the Commission have not been modified since then. The General Assembly, in an annex to resolution 2489 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, limited itself to reproducing without change the recommendations of the Fifth Committee adopted in 1957, the question of increasing the honoraria of members of the Commission not having been raised at that time.

"Thus, the original situation has persisted until now when the honoraria paid in respect of the Commission appear to be grossly inadequate by present-day standards. The nature of the Commission's work requires great learning and expertise and demands a considerable amount of time not only during the sessions of the Commission but also in between them. Members of the Commission and its special rapporteurs would, therefore, be entitled to receive fees out of all proportion with the honoraria actually paid to them. The inadequacy of those honoraria is even more manifest in the case of special rapporteurs whose expenses on account of the preparation of their individual reports far exceed the amount paid to them. Those honoraria, which are fixed ne variatur in US dollars, have remained at the same level, while the rates of inflation and devaluation of the American dollar have considerably increased. This has been reflected only on the rate of subsistence allowance. Also, taking into account the amount of annual work done by members of the Commission, attention should be drawn to the fact that the emoluments of the judges of the International Court of Justice, a body with which the Commission can be compared, have been raised on several occasions, in particular in 1974. At the same time other honoraria have likewise been increased. As it is explained in the Advisory Committee's report, when the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Drug Supervisory Board became the International Narcotics Control Board, the officers and members of the new organ were awarded, by General Assembly resolution 2368 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, honoraria approximately three times the amount which was received by members of the two precursor bodies following the 1957 review. Also, the honoraria payable to members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal were increased under resolution 2490 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968.

"To sum up, of the three bodies to which the Advisory Committee's report relates, two have had their honoraria increased in 1967 and 1968, respectively, whereas those of the third, the International Law Commission, still remain at the 1957 level, which was in fact that of 1949/50.

'As the Advisory Committee indicates in its report, the basic principle regarding payment of fees or other remuneration, recognized by the General Assembly at its 1082nd plenary meeting on 18 December 1961 and embodied in paragraph 2 of resolution 2489 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, comports the exclusion from its ambit of such honoraria as had already been authorized for payment. I have already drawn attention to the fact that the special allowance payable to members of the International Law Commission is expressly

/...

referred to in article 13 of the Commission's statute, approved by the General Assembly. Therefore, there can be no question that the entitlement to honoraria of members of the International Law Commission is in full conformity with the system adopted by the Assembly on the matter.

As it also provided in article 13 of the Commission's statute, the amount of the special allowance shall be determined by the General Assembly. This provision does not exclude the possibility of review by the Assembly of the amount payable at a given moment; on the contrary, its effective implementation presupposes such a review, so as not to defeat the purpose of the article in the light of changed circumstances. The appropriateness of review by the Assembly has been evidenced by the Assembly's own action to increase the honoraria of members of the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Administrative Tribunal, as I have already pointed out.

"To undertake now, after more than twenty-five years, a review of the amount of the honoraria paid to members of the International Law Commission, including its Chairman and special rapporteurs, with a view to its increase can only be characterized as being in full conformity with the letter and the spirit of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and its practice."

45. In a letter addressed to the Secretary-General dated 21 May 1975, the President of the International Narcotics Control Board expressed the following views:

"There can be no doubt that the above amounts, set by the General Assembly as honoraria, were not in the nature of the adequate remuneration sought by the authors of the 1961 Convention, for they by no means compensate the loss of income resulting either from the incompatibilities established under article 9 of the 1961 Convention for INCB members or from the time they have to devote to the performance of their functions. These honoraria, in fact, helped the members of the INCB to cover such representations and other additional expenditures as are incurred by virtue of membership.

However, without going further into this matter, the fact remains that the above honoraria have lost, as a result of the combined effects of continuing inflation and currency fluctuation, the real value they had when they were established by the General Assembly in 1967."

## V. CONCLUSIONS

46. As can be seen from the historical background presented earlier in the present report in respect of the payment of honoraria and the developments relating thereto, the General Assembly has, over the years, approved the payment of honoraria in exceptional cases to the members of specific organs and subsidiary organs. In some instances, the payment of such honoraria is based on specific provisions contained in the statutory rules approved by the General Assembly for the bodies concerned.

/...

47. A number of the approved honoraria payments, which were decided upon by the Assembly in each case by way of exception to the general rule, were designed not so much to compensate adequately the individuals concerned for their services as to acknowledge in a token manner an evidently substantial sacrifice of time or of financial interest on their part.

48. The United Nations must continue to secure as members of all of its organs and subsidiary organs persons of very high standing who must command general confidence by their competence and impartiality. While recognizing the fact that the appointment of persons to membership on these organs confers honour upon their country and distinction upon themselves, since considerable time is presently spent on the work of these organs and the circumstances attending the work of the various bodies differ, individuals serving on these organs might find it a financial burden to do so.

49. The approval of payment of honoraria in varying amounts to the part-time Presidents or Chairman and members of the International Law Commission, the International Narcotics Control Board and the Administrative Tribunal was based in each case on circumstances which were distinct in nature or degree. Over the years, however, the amount of honoraria paid to those officers and members have tended to become more uniform (see paras. 19 and 26 above).

50. In the absence of any new criterion relating to the payment of honoraria there do not appear to be, in the view of the Secretary-General, compelling reasons to change the present system as approved by the General Assembly. Should the Assembly agree with this view, it may wish to determine if there should be an increase in these admittedly token amounts at this time.

Annex

SPECIAL CASE STUDIES

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions

1. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee was not paid an honorarium prior to 1958. Beginning in 1948 and through 1957, he received a special allowance of \$50 a day (including subsistence allowance) while he was engaged on the work of the Committee during sessions and while he was not in the service of any Government or other body. The General Assembly, at its twelfth session, following the 1957 comprehensive review of the system of honoraria and special allowances, decided that as from 1958 the Chairman of the Advisory Committee should receive subsistence allowance at the uniform rate during sessions of the Advisory Committee and that, in addition, he should be entitled to an annual lump-sum honorarium in the amount of \$5,000. a/
2. In 1970, during the 1409th and 1417th meetings of the Fifth Committee, several delegations expressed the opinion that the honorarium paid to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee was wholly inadequate in view of the considerable responsibilities attaching to the post; it was suggested that the Secretary-General should study the question and submit a report to the Fifth Committee at its twenty-sixth session. b/
3. The Secretary-General, in his report to the twenty-sixth session (A/C.5/1365), indicated the increased workload of the Advisory Committee and the increased responsibilities of its Chairman. Noting that the actual amount of time which the Chairman of the Advisory Committee would have to spend on the Committee's business in any one year between the sessions of the Committee depended in the last analysis on the tasks entrusted by the Advisory Committee to its Chairman, the Secretary-General was of the opinion that the stage had been reached when the Chairman's independent earning capacity had virtually disappeared. At the time of the report, the duties entrusted by the Advisory Committee to its Chairman did not require his constant attendance between sessions of the Committee; however, the Secretary-General felt that the Committee would wish at all times to have first call on the services of its Chairman, and, in that case, it would be impossible for the latter to be actively engaged on behalf of his Government or other body.
4. Based on the discussions at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, an opinion had been expressed that the honorarium for the Chairman of the Advisory Committee should be more in keeping with the duties involved and the time needed

---

a/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Session, Annexes, agenda item 41, document A/3766, para. 6.

b/ Ibid., Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes, document A/8265, para. 11.



for discharging them. It was therefore necessary to strike a balance. Accordingly, the amount of the honorarium should be neither excessively attractive nor so low as to discourage candidates of the right calibre or make the incumbent too dependent on other sources of income, since the Chairman of the Advisory Committee must be an independent and objective servant of the General Assembly. c/

5. Accordingly, the Secretary-General recommended that the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee be set at \$25,000 net a year, beginning in 1972, provided he was not actively engaged on behalf of his Government or other body.

6. By resolution 2889 (XXVI) of 22 December 1971, the General Assembly approved, effective 1 January 1972, the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee as proposed by the Secretary-General. There has been no change in the amount of the honorarium paid to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee since 1972.

7. The Chairman is a full-time officer.

Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the International  
Civil Service Commission

8. Article 19 of the statute of the International Civil Service Commission states that 'the conditions of service of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Commission shall be determined by the General Assembly'.

9. In its report d/ to the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly on the draft statute of the Commission, the Advisory Committee expressed the opinion that the honoraria to be paid to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission, who are full time officers, should be appropriate to the complexity and importance of the tasks they would have to perform under the Commission's statute. The Advisory Committee recommended that the amount be set initially at \$45,000 net a year for each of the commissioners and that the Chairman of the Commission also receive an allowance of \$5,000 net a year in recognition of his added responsibilities. Those honoraria would not be subject to staff assessment and, since the post adjustment system would not apply to the honoraria, they should be reviewed by the General Assembly at appropriate intervals.

10. The Assembly, by resolution 3357 (XXIX) of 18 December 1974, endorsed the administrative and budgetary arrangements proposed for the Commission for 1975 subject to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. e/

---

c/ A/C.5/SR.1409, pp. 7-8.

d/ A/9891, para. 39.

e/ Ibid.

Chairman, special rapporteurs and other members  
of the International Law Commission

11. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 177 (II) of 21 November 1947, the International Law Commission was established to function in accordance with the provisions of its statute. As originally adopted, article 13 of this statute states that "members of the Commission shall be paid travel expenses and shall also receive a per diem allowance at the same rate as the allowance paid to members of commissions of experts of the Economic and Social Council". The per diem allowance at that time was \$20.
12. In June 1949, the International Law Commission questioned the adequacy of the allowance provided for under article 13 of its statute, stating that it was hardly sufficient to meet the living expenses of the members. The work of the Commission entailed the sacrifice of a substantial part of their income and an even greater sacrifice for those who were asked to serve as rapporteurs, preparing extended work between sessions of the Commission. Considering that it would be in the interest of the work of the Commission to enable members to devote the maximum time to the Commission's work and, at the same time, make the Commission less onerous financially, it was suggested that the General Assembly may wish to reconsider the terms of article 13. f/
13. The Sixth Committee approved such a reconsideration but referred the matter to the Fifth Committee for a decision as to its further action. g/
14. The Fifth Committee considered the matter at its 208th and 222nd meetings and concluded that there should be no exceptions in fixing subsistence allowances rates for members of expert bodies, that the special nature of the work or occupation of the International Law Commission did not warrant the payment of fees to its members during sessions, but that it would be appropriate to pay honoraria to special rapporteurs for studies prepared between sessions.
15. The General Assembly, in considering the matter at its 1949 session, did not change the allowance paid to members of the Commission, but, in respect of special rapporteurs, authorized the payment of honoraria, not exceeding \$1,500 in any one case to the Chairmen and five rapporteurs of the Commission in respect of work performed by them between sessions.
16. By resolution 485 (V) of 12 December 1950, article 13 of the statute of the Commission was amended to read, "members of the Commission shall be paid travel expenses, and shall also receive a special allowance, the amount of which shall be determined by the General Assembly". Paragraph 2 of the resolution set the special allowance at \$35 per day which represented an increase of 225 over the previous rate.

---

f/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourth Session, Supplement No. 10.

g/ A/C.5/SR.208, para. 6.

17. In 1954, the matter of special allowances to members of the Commission was reviewed, and, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, the Assembly adopted resolution 875 A (IX), in which the special allowance of \$35 daily to members was continued until the end of 1956, pending consideration by the General Assembly at its eleventh session of the application of a uniform system of daily allowance to all eligible bodies.

18. On 7 December 1956, the Assembly adopted resolution 1075 (XI), based on a report of the Fifth Committee (A/3426), which recommended that as of 1 January 1957 rates of subsistence allowances, to be determined by the Assembly, should be applied uniformly to all eligible bodies. On 18 December 1956, the Sixth Committee adopted a draft resolution pointing out that Assembly resolution 1075 (XI) dealt only with subsistence allowance and did not affect article 13 of the Statute of the Commission. It recommended also that a special allowance of \$15 per day continue to be payable to members of the Commission, in addition to subsistence allowance at the normal uniform rate. In January 1957, the Fifth Committee, in considering the financial implications of the Sixth Committee's draft resolution, agreed that a special allowance of \$15 a day be paid provisionally to members of the Commission during the 1957 session at Geneva and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a study on the question of honoraria for consideration in 1957 at the twelfth session of the General Assembly.

19. On 13 December 1957, at its 729th plenary meeting, the General Assembly, basing itself on the recommendations contained in the report of the Fifth Committee (A/3766), approved payment of honorarium to members of the Commission in the amount of \$1,000 per year. In addition, the 1949 decision, to the effect that the Special Rapporteurs and the Chairman be paid an additional honorarium of \$1,500 per year when they submitted a special report prepared between sessions was continued. In the present practice of the Commission, the Chairman prepares a special report between sessions when he is also a Special Rapporteur.

20. This annual lump-sum payment of \$1,000 per year in the form of an honorarium to each member of the International Law Commission was based on the \$15 daily special allowance provisionally paid in 1957 to members for a 10-week session.

21. This rate has remained unchanged since 1957. It should be pointed out in this connexion that the Assembly, by resolution 3315 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, approved an increase from a 10-week to a 12-week period for the annual regular session of the Commission.

President, Vice-President and other members of  
the International Narcotics Control Board

22. The United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs adopted a new convention h/ on 25 March 1961. That Convention

---

h/ Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (see United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 520, p. 204).

established the International Narcotics Control Board as one of the international control organs. The Board replaced the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Drug Supervisory Body in March 1968.

23. Articles 9, 10 and 11 of the 1961 Convention state, inter alia, that members of the Board shall be persons who, by their competence, impartiality and disinterestedness, will command general confidence and shall not hold any position or engage in any activity which would be liable to impair their impartiality in the exercise of their functions; that the members of the Board shall receive an adequate remuneration as determined by the General Assembly; that the Board shall elect its own President and other officers as are necessary; and that it shall hold at least two sessions in each calendar year.

24. The Secretary-General, in his report i/ in respect of payment of honoraria to the members of the International Narcotics Control Board, expressed the view that special circumstances warranted remuneration over and above the payment of a subsistence allowance and travel expenses to the members. Among these were the tasks to be performed by the Board, the additional responsibilities laid on the Board by the Convention of 1961 and the increased time and attention that would be required of members to accomplish the work of the Board. In addition, the Assembly had already agreed to the payment of honoraria to the officers and the members of the two organs which were to be replaced by the Board.

25. The Fifth Committee, in its report (A/7014) to the General Assembly, having considered the reports of the Secretary-General j/ and the Advisory Committee (A/6878), recommended, without objection, the approval of the Secretary-General's proposals in respect of payment of honoraria to the officers and members of the Board as follows:

President	\$2,500
Vice-President	\$1,500
Other members	\$1,000

payable in the form of an annual lump sum for any year during which the recipients attended the meetings of the Board.

26. By resolution 2368 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, the Assembly approved payment of honoraria to the officers and members of the International Narcotics Control Board as recommended by the Fifth Committee. There has been no change in the amount of these honoraria since 1967.

27. It is also relevant to point out that on 8 August 1975, the 1975 Protocol

---

i/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 74, document A/C.5/1123, para. 9.

j/ Ibid.

amending the 1961 Convention came into force and on 16 August 1976 the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances will also come into force.

28. The Board holds two or three sessions a year of a total duration of not more than eight weeks.

President and other members of the United  
Nations Administrative Tribunal

29. The General Assembly, by its resolution 351 (IV) of 24 November 1949, established the United Nations Administrative Tribunal to come into force on 1 January 1950. Article 5 of the statute of the Tribunal states that the Secretary-General "shall make the administrative arrangements necessary for the functioning of the Tribunal".

30. In 1954, the Fifth Committee considered certain questions concerning the payment of honoraria, and among its conclusions k/ was that honoraria should not be paid for work performed between sessions to the President and members of the Administrative Tribunal.

31. The Secretary-General, in submitting the budget estimates for 1959, made provision for the payment of honoraria to the President and other members of the Tribunal in recognition of the importance of the Tribunal's functions and of the time devoted by its members to the work both during and between sessions. The General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, without prejudging the substance of the issue, decided against payment of honoraria to members of the Tribunal in 1959 but agreed that a proposal could be made at a later date to modify the provisions relating to honoraria payments which had been approved at the 727th plenary meeting on 13 December 1957 on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee.

32. In 1960, at the request of the Fifth Committee, l/ the Secretary-General submitted a report m/ on the payment of honoraria to members of the Administrative Tribunal, in which he proposed the payment of an annual honorarium of \$500 to the President and additional honorarium of \$250 each to the President and the other members for each session of the Tribunal attended by them. Because of the considerable amount of time devoted by the Tribunal to the study of cases on the list before each session, the duration of the sessions were generally short giving rise to reduced expenses. The President, in addition to his judicial functions, discharged time-consuming administrative duties. It seemed appropriate, therefore, to recognize in a token manner the time and effort devoted to the work of the Tribunal.

---

k/ Ibid., Ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 47, document A/2814.

l/ Ibid., Fourteenth Session, Fifth Committee, 759th meeting, para. 7.

m/ Ibid., Fifteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 50, document A/C.5/814.

33. On 11 and 14 October 1960, at its 766th and 767th meetings, the Fifth Committee considered the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee n/ on the matter and, in its report (A/4609) to the General Assembly, recommended approval of the honoraria proposed by the Secretary-General. The Fifth Committee also recommended that the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee should undertake a comprehensive review of the question of the payment of honoraria for submission to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session. The General Assembly, at its 960th plenary meeting on 20 December 1960, adopted the recommendations of the Fifth Committee. o/

34. At the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, in a report p/ on the expenses to be incurred by the United Nations in respect of individuals or groups of experts appointed by organs or subsidiary organs for the performance of special ad hoc tasks, recommended that the General Assembly increase the amounts of the honoraria of the Administrative Tribunal to the level of those paid to members of the International Law Commission and the International Narcotics Control Board. The previous decision taken on the amount of honoraria to be paid to the members of the Tribunal was based on the volume of preparatory work undertaken by its members between sessions. The Secretary-General's proposal that \$2,500 per year be paid to the President of the Tribunal and \$500 to other members for each session of the Tribunal in which they participated during the particular year, provided that the maximum amount paid to such members in any one year should not exceed \$1,000, was agreed to by the Advisory Committee. q/

35. By resolution 2490 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968 the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, approved the increased payments of honoraria effective 1 January 1969 to the President and other members of the Tribunal. There has been no change in the amount of these honoraria since 1968. The Tribunal meets twice annually for a total of from six to seven weeks.

---

n/ A/4408, paras. 315-323.

o/ A/4609, para. 10.

p/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, agenda item 74, document A/C.5/1200, para. 39.

q/ Ibid., document A/7414/Rev.1, para. 15.