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GENERAL

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Item 39 of the agenda

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1950

Section 6 of the Budget Estimates: Investigation and Inquiries.
Chapter II: United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan

Eighteenth report of 1949 of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. In accordance with a decision taken by the Fifth Committee at its 221st meeting on 8 November 1949, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has examined the estimates of the costs of the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan for the financial year 1950, which the Secretary-General has submitted in document A/C.5/338.
2. Consideration of these estimates has been rendered more difficult by the fact that the report which the Commission is to submit to the Security Council has not yet been completed. In the circumstances, the observations made by the Advisory Committee in the present report are necessarily subject to any decisions of policy which the Security Council may take upon the recommendation of the Commission or on other grounds.
3. The Advisory Committee notes that the estimates in respect of the year 1950 are submitted on the basis of two resolutions of the Security Council, the first of which adopted on 20 January 1948, (S/654) established the Commission for an unspecified period, while the second adopted on 21 April 1948, (S/726) instructed the Commission to "place its good offices and mediation at the disposal of the Governments of India and Pakistan with a view to facilitating the taking of the necessary measures, both with respect to the restoration of peace and order and to the holding of a plebiscite by the two Governments, acting in co-operation with one another and with the Commission...."
4. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee further notes that, although the holding of a plebiscite during 1950 is not considered likely, the Secretary-General deems it necessary, in view of the uncertainties of the situation, and pending submission of the Commission's report to the Security Council, to make provision to an amount of \$49,200 in respect of the plebiscite administration.

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5. Attention is also drawn to the final paragraph of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/338), in which reference is made to the proposed method of financing the participation of the United Nations in the expenses of the plebiscite, if held. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the question whether the whole costs, or any part thereof, should be met by the United Nations or (in accordance with established precedents) by the Governments directly concerned is one of important principle, which falls to be decided by the General Assembly.
6. The Secretary-General's estimates for 1950 for the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan are based on the figures of estimated total expenditures for the year 1949 (\$815,000), which exceeds the amount of the 1949 appropriation by approximately \$490,000, and in respect of which a supplementary estimate is being submitted to the Fifth Committee.
7. Should any change in the existing policy and arrangements emerge as a result of the Security Council's deliberations on the report of the Commission, the Advisory Committee would be prepared to submit a report on any revised estimates which may be submitted by the Secretary-General.
8. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimates for section 6, chapter II, of the 1950 budget be approved as submitted, at a figure of \$715,200.
9. The salaries of the staff members of the Commission are gross, and the offsetting revenue in respect of contributions under the Staff Assessment Plan is estimated at \$38,500.
