

Third session

PART THREE OF THE PROGRESS REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR ON
PALESTINE: ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

(Financial implications of the draft resolution proposed
by the Third Committee, A/725)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. O. P. MACHADO (Brazil)

1. In accordance with rule 142 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and with the request of the President of the General Assembly of 15 November 1948 (A/C.5/255), the Fifth Committee, at its 161st meeting, considered the financial implications of the draft resolution adopted by the Third Committee concerning the problem of relief to Palestinian refugees (A/C.3/337, Annex 1). At the time of the discussion, the Fifth Committee had not before it the final text of the resolution as adopted by the Third Committee (A/725), although its substance was indicated to the Committee and discussed at the same meeting.

2. The Committee had before it the eighth report of 1948 of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/718) recommending the following amendments to the draft resolution as adopted by the Third Committee:

(a) Paragraph 2 to be amended to read:

"2. CONSIDERS on the basis of the Acting Mediator's recommendation that a sum of approximately \$29,500,000 will be required to provide relief for 500,000 refugees for a period of nine months from 1 December 1948 to 31 August 1949; and that an additional amount of approximately \$2,500,000 will be required for administrative and local operational expenses."

The opinion was expressed by the Advisory Committee in its report, and accepted by the Fifth Committee, that, in order to provide the requisite safeguards for the Working Capital Fund, it would be desirable to fix a ceiling for the additional amount referred to in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution. In recommending the figure of approximately \$2,500,000, the Advisory Committee

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and the Fifth Committee relied upon an estimate submitted by the Secretary-General and representing 10 per cent of the supply part of the programme, amounting to approximately \$24,000,000. This estimate, which is based upon the experience of both national and voluntary relief organizations in this field appeared both to the Advisory Committee and to the Fifth Committee to be an accurate one. The Committee was given the assurance that the total expenditure estimated as necessary to provide relief, inclusive of the \$2,500,000 estimated to be required for administrative and local operational expenses, would be financed out of voluntary contributions.

(b) Paragraph 3 to be amended to read:

"3. AUTHORIZES the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to advance etc..."

The effect of this proposed amendment is to make the terms of paragraph 3 of the draft resolution uniform with those in paragraph 2 of the relevant report of the Fifth Committee to the Third Committee (A/C.5/251).

(c) Paragraph 9:

On the basis of a further observation of the Advisory Committee relating to paragraph 9, the delegations of Canada and the United States of America submitted the following proposal:

"That the Fifth Committee should recommend in its report to the General Assembly that paragraph 9 of the draft resolution of the Third Committee be amended so as to delete the reference to the location of the headquarters of the Director of United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees and to substitute therefore, after the words "Relief for Palestine Refugees" the following words "whose headquarters would be in such place as the Secretary-General may deem appropriate".

3. The above recommendations were voted upon separately with the following results:

Amendment to paragraph 2:

38 in favour to none against, with 5 abstentions.

Paragraph 3:

38 in favour to none against, with 1 abstention.

Paragraph 9 was voted upon by roll call:

22 in favour to 14 against, with 9 abstentions.

In favour: Australia, Brazil, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, China, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Honduras, India, Liberia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet /Socialist

Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

Against: Afghanistan, Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Cuba, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Union of South Africa, Yemen.

Abstentions: Bolivia, Burma, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Venezuela.

The report of the Advisory Committee with a redraft of paragraph 3 made by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee for the purposes of clarity, was then voted upon with the following result:

27 in favour to none against, with 13 abstentions.

4. The Fifth Committee would have preferred to have communicated further with the Third Committee before making its final report but, in view of the urgency of the matter, felt that its recommendations to the General Assembly should be submitted as quickly as possible.

The Fifth Committee, therefore, having regard to the financial and administrative implications to which attention is called in this report, recommends to the General Assembly that the draft resolution adopted by the Third Committee be amended in the manner indicated in paragraph 2 above.
