

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

NINTH SESSION

Official Records



**FIFTH COMMITTEE, 484th
MEETING**

Thursday, 16 December 1954,
at 3.25 p.m.

New York

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Agenda item 73: Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations in 1955	331
Agenda item 38: Budget estimates for the financial year 1955 (<i>continued</i>)	333
Agenda item 48: Awards of compensation made by the United Nations Administrative Tribunal; advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (<i>concluded</i>)	333
Agenda item 53: Organization of the Secretariat (<i>concluded</i>)	333
Agenda item 38: Budget estimates for the financial year 1955 (<i>concluded</i>)	334
Completion of the Committee's work	334

Chairman: Mr. Pote SARASIN (Thailand).

AGENDA ITEM 73

Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations in 1955 (A/2864, A/C.5/620, A/C.5/L.329, A/C.5/L.330)

1. The CHAIRMAN read out a letter he had received from the President of the General Assembly stating that at its 513th plenary meeting on 15 December 1954 the General Assembly had decided to include the following additional item in the agenda of the ninth session: Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations in 1955. On the recommendation of the General Committee the General Assembly had referred the item to the Fifth Committee for consideration and report as agenda item 73.

2. The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that as the President had informed the General Assembly at the 513th meeting, the draft resolution in annex II of document A/2864 was intended to be merely indicative; in the light of the discussions in the General Committee and of subsequent consultations, he had considered it advisable to prepare a revised draft resolution (A/C.5/L.329) which took into account points that the United Kingdom delegation, supported by other delegations, had raised at the 101st meeting of the General Committee.

3. Briefly reviewing the revised draft resolution, he said that the general feeling seemed to be that the United Nations active participation in the San Francisco commemoration ceremonies should be limited to seven days, four of which would be devoted to unofficial meetings, conducted in the form of meetings of the General Assembly. He emphasized in that connexion that it had never been his intention to suggest that those meetings should be the occasion for political controversy or debates on specific issues, as was the case at meetings of regular General Assembly sessions.

The meetings would merely give representatives of Member States an opportunity to reaffirm the principles and purposes of the United Nations and its place in world affairs and to make statements appropriate to the commemorative occasion.

4. As the revised draft resolution superseded the explanatory memorandum in document A/2864, he suggested that the discussion should centre around the draft resolution, if that procedure met with the Committee's approval.

5. He assured the Committee that he would endeavour to keep within the financial limitations laid down by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Should he encounter difficulties in that respect, he was confident that it would meet with the understanding of the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly if he approached the Advisory Committee for consultation.

6. Mr. HALL (Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had had very little time in which to consider the financial implications of the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations and had therefore been unable to submit the usual written report to the General Assembly and the Fifth Committee.

7. The Secretary-General had accepted the suggestions made by several delegations and had amended the proposal in his explanatory memorandum of 11 December 1954 (A/2864); the statement of financial implications submitted in document A/C.5/620 would be modified by the proposed reduction in the duration of the commemorative event from fourteen to seven days. The Advisory Committee had been notified in advance of the Secretary-General's position and had accordingly had an opportunity of considering the financial implications of the revised proposal. The Secretary-General had rightly attached importance to the attendance, wherever possible, of the Foreign Ministers of Member States and the estimate of \$59,500 was based on the expectation and hope that fifty out of sixty Member States would be so represented. The Advisory Committee agreed with that idea, but recommended the following slightly different budgetary arrangement: the item for travel of representatives would be separated from all other items in the estimates, \$40,000 being allocated for that purpose, on the understanding that if that sum proved insufficient the Secretary-General would be authorized to withdraw the balance required from the Working Capital Fund, and that if, on the contrary, the entire sum was not needed, any savings on that item would not be used for any other purpose. The arrangement recommended by the Advisory Committee would clearly not prejudice in any way the efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure the attendance at the commemoration of the largest possible

number of Foreign Ministers, for it would give sympathetic consideration to any proposals.

8. With regard to the other items in the estimates, it was obvious that the shorter period proposed would mean a considerable decrease in the cost of such items as subsistence allowances of staff and temporary assistance. The Advisory Committee considered, too, that the number of staff to be assigned to the meetings could be substantially decreased, especially where senior and substantive staff were concerned. Only those who were considered essential for servicing the meetings and for substantive duty should be included; it was not imperative, for example, that all officials of the rank of Under-Secretary or comparable rank should be present at the commemorative ceremonies. The Public Information staff, the administrative and servicing staff, and perhaps the conference staff, could also be reduced.

9. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended an appropriation of \$40,000 for travel of representatives and an appropriation of \$60,000 to cover all the other items, that sum to be distributed at the Secretary-General's discretion. If, however, the total sum of \$100,000 should prove to be inadequate, he was sure that the Advisory Committee would be happy to consider any proposals submitted by the Secretary-General.

10. Mr. SANDLER (Sweden), supporting the revised draft resolution, introduced his amendment (A/C.5/L.330) to paragraph 2 of section B in which he proposed that the unofficial meetings should be presided over by Mr. Eelco van Kleffens, President of the ninth session of the General Assembly.

11. Mr. CLOUGH (United Kingdom) fully supported the Secretary-General's proposal that there should be an unofficial meeting of Members of the United Nations in San Francisco in June 1955 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the United Nations. If that meeting was to justify its purpose it should be purely commemorative in nature, and should avoid any discussion which might raise controversial issues. It was also important that the arrangements for such a meeting should not give any grounds for criticism of the United Nations for extravagance.

12. He welcomed the revised draft resolution which proposed that the commemorative meeting should last seven days, four days of which would be devoted to unofficial meetings attended by representatives of all Member States. A meeting of that duration should be quite long enough as a commemorative occasion.

13. He fully supported the statement of the Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee, and agreed with that Committee's recommendation that the sum of \$60,000 should be allocated to cover the expenses incurred by the United Nations in connexion with the commemorative meeting, in addition to the \$40,000 allocated to cover the travel of representatives of Member States.

14. He welcomed the Secretary-General's statement that he was prepared to accept the Advisory Committee's recommendation and accepted the Secretary-General's reservation regarding the action he would take if he found the sum recommended inadequate.

15. Mr. BIHIN (Belgium), supporting the revised draft resolution, associated himself with the Swedish proposal that the meetings at San Francisco should be presided over by Mr. Eelco van Kleffens.

16. Mr. CHECHYOTKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the proposals in the Secretary-General's memorandum, the revised draft resolution and the Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$100,000.

17. Mr. ASHA (Syria) was glad to note that there was no divergence of views between the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on the item before the Committee. Supporting the revised draft resolution, he was glad to note that the Secretary-General had accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendations with regard to the budgetary implications of the commemorative meeting at San Francisco. He also supported the Swedish amendment.

18. Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq), supporting the revised draft resolution and the Advisory Committee's recommendation, expressed his Government's gratitude to the City and the people of San Francisco for their generous invitation to the United Nations.

19. He was unable to support the Swedish amendment for he considered that the San Francisco meeting should elect its own President.

20. Mr. ORDONNEAU (France), associating himself with the statement of the United Kingdom representative, supported the Secretary-General's revised draft resolution.

21. Mr. STRAUCH (Brazil) associated himself with the statement of the United Kingdom representative and supported the revised draft resolution and the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

22. Mr. SAPRU (India), supporting the revised draft resolution, felt that the ceremonies at San Francisco should be marked by brevity and a lack of extravagance. He therefore supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

23. Mr. KOS (Yugoslavia), supporting the revised draft resolution and the Advisory Committee's recommendations, agreed that the San Francisco meeting should be of a commemorative nature only.

24. He supported the Swedish amendment, which would obviate the difficulties that might arise in connexion with the election of the President at the San Francisco meeting.

25. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) said that while he would have liked the tenth session of the General Assembly to be held at San Francisco, he would support the Secretary-General's suggestion for a more limited commemorative meeting in June. He felt that all delegations would welcome an opportunity to return to the city in which the Organization had been born and to reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. He regretted that the proposal made provision for the presence of one representative only of each Member State.

26. He would vote in favour of the revised draft resolution (A/C.5/L.329) and the Swedish amendment (A/C.5/L.330).

27. Mr. HASSAN (Pakistan) wholeheartedly endorsed the revised draft resolution proposed by the Secretary-General as amended by the Swedish representative. It was fitting that the tenth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations should be commemorated at San Francisco, where the Charter had been signed.

28. Mr. CORDIER (Secretariat) said that the Secretary-General would accept the Swedish amendment to his draft resolution.

29. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) was pleased to note that reference was made in the revised draft resolution to the invitation of the City of San Francisco, which his delegation much appreciated. He had had some misgivings regarding the scale on which it had first been proposed to organize the proceedings and he welcomed the shorter programme that was now planned.

30. He proposed that the committee, as was suggested in part B, paragraph 3, of the draft resolution, should consist of seven members, a number which would ensure the adequate representation of all geographical areas and interests, and that they should be appointed by the President of the General Assembly.

31. Mr. CORDIER (Secretariat) said that the Secretary-General would accept that proposal. If the Committee agreed, the President of the General Assembly could be requested to submit his nominations for the approval of the General Assembly at its next plenary meeting.

The proposal was adopted.

The revised draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

32. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the proposal that the Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$100,000 for expenses in connexion with the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations in 1955 should be adopted, on the understanding that \$40,000 of that amount should relate solely to the travel of representatives.

The proposal was adopted by 40 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

33. In reply to Mr. M. I. BOTHA (Union of South Africa), Mr. CORDIER (Secretariat) confirmed that in the Secretary-General's opinion the revised programme would result in an appreciable reduction in expenditures for supplies and equipment, services and staff.

AGENDA ITEM 38

Budget estimates for the financial year 1955 (A/C.5/L.327, A/C.5/L.328) (continued)

Second reading (concluded)

34. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for 1955 (A/C.5/L.327).

The resolution was adopted by 34 votes to 4, with 1 abstention on second reading.

35. Mr. CHECHYOTKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that during the discussion of the draft resolution his delegation had explained its vote on a number of items. It had objected, *inter alia*, to the provision of funds for the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Prisoners of War and for Korean Service Medals, and had therefore voted against the draft resolution as a whole.

36. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution on budget appropriations for 1955 (A/C.5/L.328).

The draft resolution was adopted by 36 votes to 4, on second reading.

37. Mr. CHECHYOTKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had voted against the draft resolution in accordance with the views he had expressed in the general debate and in the discussion of various sections of the budget. He could not approve the total budget estimates recommended by the Committee, for he considered them excessive and unwarranted. The real work of the Organization should not require a budget in excess of \$35 million including the funds recorded as miscellaneous income.

AGENDA ITEM 48

Awards of compensation made by the United Nations Administrative Tribunal: advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (A/C.5/L.324) (concluded)

38. Mr. CARBONNIER (Sweden) recalled that the Fifth Committee had agreed that the Special Committee to study the question of establishing an appeals procedure should be composed of fifteen members. His delegation thought that it might be better to widen that membership to include the representatives of Norway and Syria. Although he was prepared to introduce a proposal to that effect in the General Assembly, it might facilitate matters if he made the proposal there and then.

39. Mr. CHECHYOTKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought that the Fifth Committee should confine its discussion to the Rapporteur's draft report and that the Swedish proposal should be introduced in the General Assembly.

40. The CHAIRMAN concurred.

It was decided to examine only the Rapporteur's draft report.

41. The CHAIRMAN put the Rapporteur's draft report (A/C.5/L.324) to the vote.

The draft report was approved.

AGENDA ITEM 53

Organization of the Secretariat (A/C.5/L.325) (concluded)

42. Mr. SAPRU (India) said that during the debate the Chairman of the Indian delegation had objected to the performance of certain activities on contract and to the use of volunteer organizations in conducting other activities which were properly within the purview of the Organization itself. He wondered if a reference to those comments could be included in the draft report of the Rapporteur.

43. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) (Rapporteur) said that in drafting the report on the organization of the Secretariat he had had to consider whether to adhere to the question of the organization of the Secretariat as such, or to include all other matters to which reference had been made during the debate. He had concluded that it would be better to concentrate on the substance of the question of reorganization. If the Committee had no objections, however, he would amend the draft report in accordance with the Indian representative's suggestion.

It was so decided.

The draft report on the organization of the Secretariat (A/C.5/L.325), as amended, was approved.

AGENDA ITEM 38

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1955
(A/C.5/L.326) (concluded)**

44. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) said that during the discussion on the permanent headquarters of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) his delegation had pointed out that the financial side of the question should be the responsibility of the agencies themselves and that, while there were many different ways in which it could be handled, the cost of the buildings should not be a direct charge on the general budget of the United Nations, whatever arrangements were decided upon. Paragraph 33 of the draft report (A/C.5/L.326) did not adequately reflect that position. He suggested that, if there were no objections, the last sentence might be amended to read "One delegation, however, expressed the view that the financing of the project(s) should be the responsibility of the agencies themselves and that, although it might be in order for the United Nations to assist them by means of an advance or loan from the Working Capital Fund, the cost of construction should be a charge against the regular budget of the United Nations."

The amendment was accepted.

The draft report on the budget estimates for the financial year 1955 (A/C.5/L.326), as amended, was approved.

Completion of the Committee's work

45. The CHAIRMAN expressed his gratitude for the wholehearted co-operation of the Committee in the timely completion of the work on its long and difficult agenda. He particularly thanked the Vice-Chairman, who would shortly be leaving the United Nations, and wished him every success. Thanks were due also to the Rapporteur and the other officers of the Committee. Finally, he paid a tribute to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for its constant assistance, and expressed appreciation of the full and frank co-operation given by the Secretary-General and his assistants and advisers, and of the tireless efforts of all members of the Secretariat in helping the Fifth Committee bring its work to a successful conclusion.

46. Mr. ASHA (Syria), speaking on behalf of the Arab States, paid a tribute to the impartiality, patience and tolerance of the Chairman and thanked the Vice-Chairman, whose imminent departure was regretted by all delegations, and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. The Committee could but be grateful to the Secretary-General for spending so much time with it and it wished him well in the implementation of its recommendations and decisions. It owed much, too, to his collaborators in the Secretariat and, in particular, to the Secretary of the Advisory Committee, who had given of himself unstintingly and to whom the Arab States wished to accord special recognition.

47. Mr. BIHIN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the Benelux countries, expressed appreciation of the patience and courtesy of the Chairman in conducting the Committee's proceedings and said that the Committee had valued the high qualities and notable contributions of its Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur. He thanked the Secretariat and particularly the Secretary-

General, who had given so much of his time to the Committee, the Director of the Bureau of Finance, and the Secretaries of the Fifth Committee and of the Advisory Committee.

48. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) spoke for all the Commonwealth countries in saying that the Committee had completed a profitable and constructive session and had reached some important decisions of long-range significance for the United Nations. That result was largely due to the efficient way in which the Chairman had presided over the Committee's work and to the valuable assistance given by all the Committee's officers and by the Secretariat. The Committee was particularly grateful to the Secretary-General for his tolerance and co-operativeness in all matters affecting administration.

49. Mr. DONS-MOELLER (Denmark) expressed the appreciation of the Scandinavian delegations of the wisdom and patience with which the Chairman had conducted the Committee's proceedings and thanked the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur and all members of the Secretariat for their unfailing courtesy and helpfulness. He expressed special appreciation for the invaluable assistance given by the Chairman, members and Secretary of the Advisory Committee.

50. Mr. CHECHYOTKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation and those of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republics, Poland and Czechoslovakia were grateful to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Rapporteur and other officers of the Committee for the work they had done; they valued the help of the Advisory Committee and appreciated the co-operation given by the Secretary-General and his representatives. They also wished to express thanks for the good and accurate work performed by all the servicing staff of the Secretariat.

51. Mr. SAPRU (India) said that the fairness and justice of the Chairman had enabled the Committee to deal expeditiously with a heavy agenda which had included a number of controversial items. The Committee was particularly grateful to the Vice-Chairman for his great help in disposing of its work with despatch and offered him its good wishes of his departure. He complimented the Rapporteur on his legal acumen and devotion to his task, and paid a tribute to the Chairman and members of the Advisory Committee. He expressed confidence in the Secretary-General who clearly had the welfare of the United Nations at heart, and offered his delegation's thanks to him and his collaborators and to all members of the Secretariat.

52. Mr. MONTERO BUSTAMANTE (Uruguay) expressed the gratitude of the Latin American delegations to the Committee's Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur and the Chairman and members of the Advisory Committee, as also to the Secretary-General for his helpfulness and spirit of conciliation.

53. Mr. BRAVO CARO (Mexico), Mr. BENDER (United States of America), U HTUN TIN (Burma), Mr. STRAUCH (Brazil), Mr. ESFANDIARY (Iran), Mr. NATANAGARA (Indonesia), Mr. ASIROGLU (Turkey), Mr. LIU Yu-wan (China), Mr. HASSAN (Pakistan) and Mr. HORVAT (Yugoslavia) associated themselves with the tributes paid by the preceding speakers.

54. Mr. HALL (Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Ques-

tions) expressed the appreciation of the Advisory Committee for the tributes paid to its work and said that the Advisory Committee itself wished to give special recognition to its Secretary for his work for the Committee. He expressed the Advisory Committee's appreciation for the work of the Fifth Committee's officers and secretariat.

55. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) (Rapporteur), said that it had been a privilege and a pleasure to hold that office and that he had welcomed the opportunity and the experience of working in close collaboration with members of the Secretariat, without whose tireless devotion the work could not have been completed in time and, indeed, could not perhaps have been performed at all. He thanked the Committee and its officers, and the Secretariat.

56. Mr. M. I. BOTHA (Union of South Africa) (Vice-Chairman), associated himself with the tribute

paid to the Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee and the Advisory Committee and its staff, and expressed appreciation of the interest shown by the Secretary-General and of the frequency of his attendances at meetings of the Fifth Committee. He thanked members of the Committee for their generous references to himself, but assured them that their co-operation had been instrumental in his success. He was sorry that he would no longer be with the United Nations, but he would take with him the happiest memories of his ten years' association with it, and was particularly grateful for the honour done to him in his appointment as Vice-Chairman of the Fifth Committee at the ninth session.

57. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Committee for their kind and generous words.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.