

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

FIFTH SESSION

Official Records



FIFTH COMMITTEE 252nd

MEETING

Friday, 20 October 1950, at 10.45 a.m.

Lake Success, New York

C O N T E N T S

	<i>Page</i>
Budget estimates for the financial year 1951: (a) Budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General (A/1267); (c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/1312 and Corr.1 and Add.1) (<i>first reading, continued</i>)	91
Approval of the Rapporteur's reports (A/1446, A/1447, A/1448, A/1449) (<i>continued</i>)	93

Chairman: The Maharaja Jam Saheb of NAWANAGAR (India).

Budget estimates for the financial year 1951:
(a) Budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General (A/1267); (c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/1312 and Corr.1 and Add.1) (*first reading, continued*)

[Item 39]*

**PART VIII, SECTION 25. OFFICIAL RECORDS, AND
SECTION 26. PUBLICATIONS**

1. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the estimates for contractual printing, with the exception of those relating to the International Court of Justice, had been consolidated in the budget estimates for 1951 under sections 25 and 26. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had recommended that the estimates for section 25 should be reduced by \$52,800 to \$870,000 and the estimates for section 26, by \$193,100 to \$900,000.

2. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil), supporting the Advisory Committee's recommendations, referred to the fact that some organs of the United Nations had requested verbatim records of their discussions. He hoped that in studying the question of official records the Administration would consider first the quality of such records and then their cost, as he knew that certain organs were not satisfied with the services they received.

3. Lord CROOK (United Kingdom), referring to the question of placing contracts in soft-currency areas, said the Fifth Committee would recall that, at its fourth session, the United Kingdom delegation had urged that efforts should be made to place a larger proportion of printing contracts in such areas.¹ Despite certain dis-

advantages attendant on the placing of contracts in areas far removed from Headquarters, his delegation still believed that more could be done in that direction. The prices charged in the United States of America for printing documents in foreign languages were notably high, and he therefore urged the Administration to make every effort to see that as much printing as possible was carried out in soft-currency countries.

4. Mr. CORDIER (Secretariat), speaking as Chairman of the Publications Board, said the policy followed by that body was in complete conformity with the suggestions made by the United Kingdom representative, and pointed out that whereas 17 per cent of the printing budget had been spent outside the United States of America in 1949, approximately 28 per cent would be so spent in 1950. Moreover, in terms of the number of pages printed, whereas 26 per cent had been printed outside the United States in 1949, about 42 per cent would be by the end of 1950. For 1951, steps were already being taken to provide satisfactory printing arrangements in a considerable number of soft-currency countries not hitherto affected.

5. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) expressed his appreciation of the contacts established between the department responsible for the distribution of documents to delegations, and also of the efforts made by the Secretariat to effect savings in printing.

6. Referring to the table on page 43 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/1312), he wondered whether further savings could be effected. He was surprised at the large number of copies of Official Records of the Permanent Central Opium Board which it was proposed to publish.

7. The Danish delegation associated itself with the remarks contained in paragraph 271 of the Advisory Committee's report, and agreed that certain documents should be mimeographed and not printed.

* Indicates the item number on the General Assembly agenda.

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourth Session, Fifth Committee*, 195th meeting, para. 49.

8. Mr. CORDIER (Secretariat) said that during 1950 there had been more liaison work than ever before between the Secretariat and delegations in connexion with the distribution of documents. Such liaison work was mutually helpful, as it led to a more systematic use of documents and a considerable reduction in the number of documents distributed.
9. Referring to the large number of copies of the Official Records of the Permanent Central Opium Board which it was intended to distribute, he pointed out that such records were used by governments and technical and scientific bodies of Member States interested in the question of opium control.
10. The Publications Board had made every effort to have documents mimeographed rather than printed, and would bear in mind the recommendations made in paragraph 271 of the Advisory Committee's report.
11. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway), referring to paragraph 270 of the Advisory Committee's report, hoped that lower grade paper would not be used in the printing of the Treaty Series. That series was kept on file in public and governmental libraries and should therefore be printed on a good quality paper.
12. Referring to paragraph 273 of the Advisory Committee's report, he hoped that the money saved by placing contracts in soft-currency areas would not be spent on printing a larger quantity of documents.
13. Mr. CORDIER (Secretariat) said that when ordering the printing of the Treaty Series, the Secretariat had borne in mind the fact that the Series should be printed on durable paper. Even after that factor had been taken into account, it had been felt that some changes could be made in the quality of the paper used.
14. It was certainly not the policy of the Publications Board to increase the volume of printing on the basis of savings effected by printing done in soft-currency countries.
15. Mr. VAN ASCH VAN WIJCK (Netherlands) said the Netherlands delegation considered that, wherever possible, publications which had so far been printed in Switzerland should be printed in neighbouring countries where costs were not so high.
16. Mr. GANEM (France) agreed with the remarks of the Netherlands representative, and emphatically endorsed the statements made in paragraph 271 of the Advisory Committee's report. He hoped the Secretariat would continue its efforts to make all documents published as concise as possible.
17. Mr. CORDIER (Secretariat) said that every effort was being made to have documents formerly printed in Geneva printed in areas where prices were lower.
18. The policy of the Publications Board had always been to improve the drafting of publications and also, where possible, to reduce their length.
19. Mr. CHENG (China) said that his country was particularly interested in the documents published by the Permanent Central Opium Board. He suggested, therefore, that as those documents had so far not been published in Chinese or Russian, a certain proportion of the sum allocated to cover the printing of the English and French copies should be used to publish a limited

number of copies in Chinese and Russian. Similar action might be taken in connexion with the records of the United Nations Scientific Conference on Conservation and Utilization of Resources, which, he understood, were to be published in English and French only.

20. Mr. CORDIER (Secretariat) said that so far no request had been received for the records of the Permanent Central Opium Board and the United Nations Scientific Conference on Conservation and Utilization of Resources to be published in Chinese. He emphasized that the rules of procedure of the five other bodies mentioned in the table on page 43 of the Advisory Committee's report required their records to be published in the five official languages, and that special budgetary provision would have to be made if the records referred to by the Chinese representative were published in Chinese and Russian.

21. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the appropriation for section 25, Official Records, should be reduced by \$52,800 to \$870,000.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation was approved unanimously.

22. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the appropriation for section 26, Publications, should be reduced by \$193,100 to \$900,000.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation was approved unanimously.

PART X, SECTION 30. TRANSFER OF THE ASSETS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

23. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that in paragraph 293 of its report (A/1312) the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the proposed provision of \$649,500, representing the amount of the first instalment due under paragraph 1 (a) of General Assembly resolution 250 (III) relating to the transfer of the assets of the League of Nations.

24. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil), supporting the Advisory Committee's recommendation, suggested that the Secretary-General should report to the sixth session of the General Assembly on the question of remodelling the Assembly Hall and the Council Room in the Palais des Nations at Geneva, in order that large conferences, such as the General Assembly of the United Nations, might meet at the European headquarters if necessary. Although his delegation did not favour the holding of meetings away from permanent Headquarters, such an argument would not apply to meetings held at the European headquarters.

25. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the proposed provision of \$649,500, representing the first instalment in connexion with the liquidation of the permanent capital assets of the League of Nations, should be approved.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation was approved unanimously.

SECTION 31. AMORTIZATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS CONSTRUCTION LOAN

26. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Advisory Committee, in paragraph 295 of its report (A/1312), recommended the approval of the proposed provision of

\$1 million, representing the first instalment due on 1 July 1951 under the terms of the Loan Agreement.

27. Lord CROOK (United Kingdom) said his delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

28. He wished to emphasize once more that the United Kingdom delegation hoped that it would be possible to place some of the contracts contemplated in connexion with the Headquarters building in soft-currency countries, especially as regards electric light fittings, linoleum, towels and so forth. His delegation was aware that in that connexion a survey had been made of the resources of the soft-currency areas, but had no information as to the results of the survey.

29. Mr. PRICE (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services) said that the point raised by the United Kingdom representative would be discussed at length when the Fifth Committee dealt with agenda item 36, Headquarters of the United Nations. Referring to the Secretary-General's report on the Headquarters of the United Nations (A/1392), he said that tenders for equipment such as that mentioned by the United Kingdom representative had been placed in various areas and some purchases made, but the main part of the buying had not yet been done.

30. Mr. ELLIOTT (Canada) inquired whether it was necessary for the Advisory Committee to include, each year, in its report the item dealt with in section 31. As it was a binding obligation upon the United Nations to make repayment over a fixed period of years to the United States Government for the Headquarters construction loan, the item might well be omitted from future reports.

31. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) replied that, as the item must appear in the budget estimates for each year, the Advisory Committee was in duty bound to report upon it.

32. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) also pointed out that the Fifth Committee's consideration of the budget each year was based upon the Advisory Committee's report, hence that section must continue to be included.

33. Mr. FOURIE (Union of South Africa) observed that the repayment of a loan came within current expenditure and had to be treated as such in the budget.

34. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the proposed provision of \$1 million, representing the first instalment due on 1 July 1951, under the terms of the Loan Agreement, should be approved.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation was unanimously approved.

PART I, SECTION 1. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

35. In reply to a point raised by Mr. MELAS (Greece), Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) stated that members of the Committee on Contributions received the normal subsistence allowance of \$20 per day.

36. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) said that, before voting on the item, it would be advisable to have a specific indication of where the General Assembly would be held

the following year. It was his understanding that the estimate under consideration was based on the assumption that meetings of the General Assembly would be held at Flushing Meadow and Committee meetings in the new Headquarters building in New York. The amount proposed did not take into account the possibility that a change in location might be necessitated by unforeseen developments in 1951, with consequent supplementary estimates.

37. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) replied that the estimate was based upon the assumption indicated by the Brazilian representative.

38. Mr. HALL (United States of America) inquired whether it was the intention to take up, at the current juncture, recommendations with respect to subsistence allowances for members of commissions, committees and other subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations. He was willing that it should be discussed at a later date, but any decision on the section under consideration should not prejudice future consideration of that question.

39. The CHAIRMAN indicated that it would be discussed at a future meeting.

40. He then put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the appropriation for section 1 should be reduced by \$38,200 and approved at the figure of \$700,000.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation was unanimously approved.

SECTION 2. THE SECURITY COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

41. The CHAIRMAN noted that no provision was requested under section 2. He directed attention to the Advisory Committee's report (A/1312, paras. 49 and 50) where an explanation of the apparent anomaly was given.

42. In reply to a question by Mr. MACHADO (Brazil), Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) stated that provision was made under section 18a for temporary alterations to the Flushing building so that meetings of the Security Council might be held there pending completion of the meeting hall area at the permanent Headquarters.

There being no objection, section 2 was approved.

Approval of the Rapporteur's reports (A/1446, A/1447, A/1448, A/1449) (continued)

43. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should consider successively its four reports on agenda items 37 (a), (b) and (c), and 44.

44. Lord CROOK (United Kingdom), in moving the adoption of the report on agenda item 37 (a) (A/1446), paid a tribute to the Rapporteur for the excellence of his work.

45. The CHAIRMAN fully endorsed Lord Crooke's observations.

There being no objection, the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 37 (a) was adopted.

46. Mr. FOURIE (Union of South Africa), Rapporteur, proposed that, in the report on agenda item 37 (b) (A/1447), the first sentence of paragraph 2 should be amended to read: "In the course of the discussion of

the Auditor's report, several members supported the recommendation . . .".

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 37 (b), as amended, was adopted.

There being no objection, the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 37 (c) (A/1448) and 44 (A/1449) were successively adopted.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.