

## SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1947

## REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Mr. R. HICHENS BERGSTROM (Sweden)

1. In accordance with instructions given by the General Assembly at its ninety-first plenary meeting on 23 September 1947, the Fifth Committee considered, at its fifty-fourth and one-hundredth meetings, the supplementary estimates for the financial year 1947 as proposed by the Secretary-General and reviewed and reported upon by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (documents A/C.5/145, A/C.5/159, A/C.5/216 and A/C.5/218).
2. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee emphasized at the earlier meeting that the supplementary estimates for 1947 represented for the most part expenditures which had already been made or commitments entered into by the Secretary-General. The whole presentation of such estimates gave rise to considerable discussion in the Committee relative to the need for greater financial control by the General Assembly. It was emphasized that the major part of the expenditures had grown out of directives by the Councils and by the special session of the General Assembly and that the Secretary-General had had little discretion in regard to the amounts spent. The Assistant Secretary-General for Administrative and Financial Services stated that the Secretary-General would be glad to have his constitutional position with respect to demands of the Councils clarified.
3. There was also some discussion at the fifty-fourth meeting of specific estimates presented, particularly with reference to the size of staff for the Special Committee on Palestine as noted in paragraph 7 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/C.5/159). The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that his delegation would abstain from voting in view of the fact that it believed that the principle of strict economy had not been adhered to in making these expenditures outside the appropriation made by the General Assembly in 1946.
4. There was also considerable discussion regarding the travelling expenses of members of commissions. The representative of Belgium pointed out that  
/the estimates

the estimates indicated a difference in treatment between the Balkan Commission and the Special Committee on Palestine. It was pointed out that the Secretary-General had acted only in strict conformity to the resolutions of the General Assembly in this matter. The representative from China specifically reserved the position of his delegation on the question of the payment of travelling expenses for the members of the Balkan Commission. The question of principle was held over until the Secretary-General had presented his recommendations (document A/C.5/212); the Belgian delegation then presented a specific proposal (document A/C.5/W.56) which was discussed and revised (A/C.5/W.58). The Committee decided at its ninety-ninth meeting to refer the whole question to the Advisory Committee for study and report back to the next regular session of the General Assembly. In view of this decision, the Committee approved the supplementary estimates for 1947, which included provision for travel and subsistence for one representative and one alternate for each member of the Special Committee on the Greek Question and of the Temporary Commission on Korea with the following reservation:

"It was expressly understood by the Committee that these cases will not constitute a precedent and will not prejudice the adoption of a general principle on the whole question now submitted to the Advisory Committee for consideration and report to the next regular session of the General Assembly."

5. The Committee, at its fifty-fourth meeting, adopted, by thirty-nine votes to none, with three abstentions, the fifth report of the Advisory Committee, including the draft appropriation resolution included as Annex A to that report (A/C.5/159). This action was later amended by the addition of appropriations for the Special Committee on the Greek Question and the Commission on Korea; and by the deduction of \$330,225 transferred to the budget for 1948 in consequence of new financial regulations approved by the Committee which reduced the total supplementary requirements for 1947 to \$876,568. The report of the Secretary-General (A/218) which made clear that the revised gross amount of the appropriation for 1947 would be \$28,616,568 and that casual revenue in an amount of \$325,621 would be appropriated in aid of this total estimated expenditure was approved at the one-hundredth meeting by twenty-seven votes to six, with five abstentions.
6. The Committee recommends, therefore, that the General Assembly adopt the following resolution:

/THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1947

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLVES that,

1. For the financial year 1947, an amount of \$876,568 (U.S.) is hereby appropriated as a supplement to the amount of \$27,740,000 (U.S.) appropriated by resolution 68 (I) adopted on 14 December 1946, as follows:

<u>Appropriation Section</u>	amount appropriated by Resolution 68(1) Part B Dollars (U.S)	supplementary appropriation: increase or (decrease) Dollars (U.S.)	revised amounts of appropriation Dollars (U.S.)
<u>Part I - United Nations</u>			
I. For expenses of travel of representatives to the General Assembly and travel of members of committees and commissions	1,090,500	(68,371)	1,022,129
II. For expenses of personnel services	13,999,223	1,955,141	15,954,364
III. For expenses of contributions to the Staff Provident Fund, Provisional Staff Retirement Scheme and related benefits	2,301,179	(865,496)	1,435,683
IV. For expenses of common services	5,966,500	149,723	6,116,223
V. For expenses of establishment of headquarters and initial recruitment of staff	3,074,000	(99,085)	2,974,915
VI. For expenses of advisory social welfare functions	670,186	(115,344)	554,842
	<u>27,101,588</u>	<u>956,568</u>	<u>28,058,156</u>
<u>Part II - International Court of Justice</u>			
VII. For expenses of the International Court of Justice	387,894	(55,000)	332,894
VIII For expenses of the Registry and Common Services of the International Court of Justice	250,518	(25,000)	225,518
	<u>638,412</u>	<u>(80,000)</u>	<u>558,412</u>
	<u>27,740,000</u>	<u>876,568</u>	<u>28,616,568</u>

2. Amounts not exceeding those in the third column (revised amounts of appropriation) of the above schedule shall be available for the payment of obligations in respect of goods supplied or services rendered during the period 1 January 1947 to 31 December 1947.

3. Casual revenue not exceeding \$325,621 (U.S.) is hereby appropriated in to cover aid of the above expenditure.