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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1956

Miscellaneous supplementary estimates

Thirty-fourth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the tenth session of the General Assembly

1. The Secretary-General proposes in document A/C.5/654 supplementary provision under three headings in the 1956 budget estimates.

A. European Office of the United Nations

2. The Fifth Committee has recommended, in first reading of the 1956 estimates, an appropriation of \$146,000 under chapter VIII (Permanent equipment) of section 18, comprising \$96,000 in respect of the provision (\$100,900) originally proposed by the Secretary-General under that chapter (A/2904, pages 66 and 67),^{1/} and \$50,000 in respect of his subsequent proposal (A/3041, paragraph 11) for the modernization and improvement of the physical facilities at the Palais des Nations. The Secretary-General now proposes that the sum of \$146,000 should be increased by \$65,900 to \$211,900, for the purpose of renewing the air-conditioning plant in the Assembly Block at the Palais des Nations, a project which was authorized in the 1955 budget but on which it has not been found possible to carry out preparatory work during the current year.

3. The Advisory Committee concurs in the proposed re-appropriation of the amount of \$65,900, on condition that the work is completed during 1956.

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Session, Supplement No. 5.

B. Expenditure from the income of the Library Endowment Fund

4. The Advisory Committee agrees with the proposal of the Secretary-General that an accumulated surplus on the income account of the Library Endowment Fund should be used exceptionally to increase the amount provided in paragraph 4 of the draft appropriation resolution for 1956 (A/2921, appendix I)^{2/} from \$13,000 to \$17,000. The additional amount of \$4,000 will be provided for the engagement of temporary staff to work on the arrears of cataloguing and indexing in the Geneva Library.

5. The Advisory Committee is informed that the purpose of the proposed expenditure is consistent with the terms of the trust fund. It recommends that the draft resolution under reference should be amended to read:

"4. In addition to the appropriations voted by paragraph 1, an amount of \$US 17,000 is hereby appropriated for the purchase of books, periodicals, maps, library equipment and for the employment of temporary assistance on arrears of cataloguing and indexing, from the income of the Library Endowment Fund, in accordance with the objects and provisions of the endowment."

C. Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE)

6. The Secretary-General proposes the addition of \$40,000 to the 1956 estimates for section 21, for the installation of an air-conditioning plant in the premises occupied by the Commission's secretariat at Bangkok.

7. As the project in question comprises a centrally operated plant, and not individual and easily movable window units, for air-conditioning, the Advisory Committee has examined the question of the permanent seat of ECAFE. Under an agreement recently concluded between the United Nations and the Government of Thailand, Bangkok is designated as the headquarters of ECAFE, and the Advisory Committee is informed that the Commission is expected to remain at that city for a period of at least five years.

8. The Advisory Committee is accordingly prepared to recommend that the proposed provision of \$10,000 under chapter IV (Permanent equipment) of section 21 of the 1956 estimates should be increased by \$40,000 to a total of \$50,000, for the above-stated purpose. The Committee presumes that appropriate safeguards will be adopted so that, in the event of the removal of the Commission's headquarters from Bangkok, the interest of the United Nations in this substantial investment may be adequately protected.

^{2/} Ibid., Supplement No. 7, pp. 9-11.