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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1956

Revised estimates for sections 3, 8, 13, 15, 18, 25, 28 and 28a

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

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered a report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/628) showing the financial implications of decisions taken during 1955 by the Economic and Social Council at its nineteenth and twentieth sessions. The Secretary-General estimates that an addition to the 1956 budget of \$363,410 will be required for the implementation of these decisions. A breakdown of the amount by budget sections is annexed to document A/C.5/628.
2. In considering these estimates, the Advisory Committee has taken account of the general budgetary situation for the years 1955 and 1956. For 1955, the Secretary-General has submitted in a separate report (A/C.5/650) supplementary estimates totalling \$3,264,200, which, if approved, will bring the 1955 budget up to \$50,228,000. While the final level of the 1956 estimates cannot yet be determined, it is clear, from the information already available, that the figure will be in the neighbourhood of \$48,500,000. For assessment purposes, the supplementary appropriations for 1955 will be added to the amount initially appropriated for 1956, and consequently the gross amount on which assessments will be based will be about \$51,500,000, subject, of course, to adjustments for miscellaneous income and other credits.

Recommendations of the Advisory Committee

I. Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

3. The Secretary-General states that the additional study in 1956 in the field of discrimination which was authorized by Economic and Social Council

resolution 586 C (XX) can be undertaken within the present Secretariat resources. Nevertheless the Secretary-General suggests that, in order to meet contingent expenditures connected with the possible appointment of a rapporteur to prepare the study, provision not exceeding \$2,400 should be made in the draft resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

4. While noting that, in the case of earlier studies, the Sub-Commission has made use of the services of rapporteurs, the Committee still maintains the view, previously expressed in paragraph 268 of its second report to the ninth session of the General Assembly (A/2688),^{1/} that the Secretariat, by reason of its international character and of the standards of integrity and competence which it is required to fulfil, is best fitted for the preparation of such studies as the Organization may call for in its various fields of activity, and that recourse to special rapporteurs for this purpose should be avoided.

5. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that no specific provision should be included for this purpose either in the budget or in the draft resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. In the event that such provision should prove indispensable, there exists machinery whereby it could be authorized with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee.

II. Expert Committee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

6. The Secretary-General submits an estimate of \$7,000 in connexion with the reconvening, pursuant to Council resolution 567 E (XIX), of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. A four-week meeting of the Committee is planned for Geneva in 1956. The Advisory Committee understands that, on the basis of the present membership of the Committee, travel costs would be lower for a Geneva meeting than for a meeting at New York. Although the Committee would be normally in favour of a meeting at Headquarters, it does not object to the proposed meeting at Geneva in view of the budgetary savings involved.

7. As regards the Headquarters staff to be assigned to this meeting, the Advisory Committee suggests that, in view particularly of the fact that the participants

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Supplement No. 7

will be experts in their own right, one Headquarters official should be able to provide the necessary substantive servicing. The travel of this official may be covered, as stated in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report, by the provision for home leave. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of \$1,000 in the estimate submitted by the Secretary-General.

III. Twenty-second session of the Economic and Social Council

8. The cost of extending the twenty-second session of the Council by one week (making a total of five weeks), in accordance with the Council's decision at its 890th meeting, is estimated at \$15,000, comprising \$3,500 for subsistence expenses of Headquarters staff (section 3) and \$11,500 for temporary assistance at the European Office (section 18).

9. The Advisory Committee believes that all the staff assigned to the Council session may not be required for its servicing during the last week of the session when examination of most of the items on the agenda will have been completed. A similar consideration applies also to the temporary staff recruited for the session. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of \$5,000 in the estimate submitted - \$2,000 to be applied to subsistence expenses of Headquarters staff and \$3,000 to temporary assistance at the European Office.

IV. Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Studies required by the Commission on International Commodity Trade

10. In paragraph 8 of document A/C.5/628, the Secretary-General estimates that the studies required by the Commission on International Commodity Trade (E/2745 and Council resolution 582 (XX)) will involve in 1956 additional staff costs of \$24,500. With one exception, these studies are stated to represent additional projects both for the Bureau of Economic Affairs and the Statistical Office. Following a careful review of existing staff resources, two Professional posts will be made available for this work, but in addition, one Professional post and four General Service posts are requested.

11. The Advisory Committee notes that a part of this work has, for some years past, been a continuing responsibility of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee on International Commodity Arrangements. As regards the remainder of the workload involved, a careful determination of priorities together with an appropriate allocation of staff resources should enable the Bureau of Economic Affairs and the

Statistical Office to undertake the essential work involved without any increase in the total staff of these two offices. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that no additional provision should be made in respect of this item.

V. Yearbook on Human Rights

12. The Secretary-General considers that, in order to keep down the size of the Human Rights Yearbook while including the additional material requested by the Commission on Human Rights (E/2731 and Corr.1, paragraph 28), it will be necessary to provide increased editorial assistance. For 1956, this would take the form of an addition of \$3,600 to section 13 (Temporary assistance).

13. The additional material to be included in the Yearbook will consist of statements furnished by governments on specific human rights or categories of rights. In the Advisory Committee's view, the compression of the volume of the Yearbook, despite the addition of this material, is essentially within the scope and workload of the present editorial staff. Furthermore, the Yearbook is doubtless one of the publications which is in any case subjected to the most careful editing. In these circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that no additional budgetary provision should be made for 1956 in respect of the Yearbook on Human Rights.

VI. Studies on Population Problems

14. An amount of \$15,000 is requested under section 13 (Consultants) for two pilot studies in population problems to be undertaken by qualified institutions in under-developed areas of the world, in accordance with Council resolution 751 (XIX). This figure represents the total financial contribution which the Organization is expected to make during 1956 to the expenditure to be incurred by the two institutions.

15. The Advisory Committee has since been informed that this estimate can be reduced to \$10,000, in the light of the amount of work that will in fact be undertaken in 1956.

VII. Supplementary Convention on Slavery

VIII. Bulletin on Narcotics

IX. Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Claims for Maintenance

16. A total of \$6,310 is estimated for printing costs in respect of the above three items. The Advisory Committee does not, however, recommend a specific

additional provision for this purpose in view of the fact that it may be possible, in its opinion, to meet this limited expenditure within the total amount appropriated for section 25.

X. Advisory Social Welfare Services

17. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 585 G (XX) of 23 July 1955, which recommended that "the General Assembly provide for a significant increase, within the present level of the United Nations budget, in allocations for the programme of advisory social welfare services for 1956 and following years", the Secretary-General proposes that additional provision of \$231,500 (making a total of \$1,000,000) should be made in the 1956 budget (section 28) for this purpose. In doing so, the Secretary-General has taken account of the expected volume of requests to be submitted by governments and regional projects in this field not qualifying for financing under the Special Account of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

18. The appropriate lump-sum amounts to be allocated from the regular budget towards the costs of technical programmes depend primarily on the level of the budget which Member States are prepared to vote. Clearly, however, there is the further limiting factor that the amounts should not exceed what can be usefully expended during the year on the basis of properly conceived projects. Considered in this light, an increase of not more than \$150,000 in the figure of \$768,500 already recommended for section 28 appears in present circumstances reasonable.

XI. Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights

19. In accordance with Council resolution 586 E (XX), which authorizes the provision, at the request of governments, of certain forms of technical assistance in the field of human rights, the Secretary-General proposes the inclusion of \$60,000 in a new section 28a of the 1956 budget. This provision is intended to absorb the 1956 costs, estimated at \$45,000, of the programme to promote freedom of information which was approved by the Council in resolution 574 A (XIX).

Apart from this, the Secretary-General has found difficulty in making a precise forecast of the number or nature of requests to be received from Governments.

20. In view of this factor of uncertainty, and of the wider considerations referred to in paragraph 18 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the provision under a new section 28a of the 1956 budget for technical programmes in the field of human rights should be limited to \$50,000, or a reduction of \$10,000 in the amount proposed by the Secretary-General.

Summary of recommendations

21. The recommendations contained in the foregoing paragraphs may be summarized as follows:

<u>Section and item</u>	<u>Secretary-General's estimate</u>	<u>Amount recommended by the Advisory Committee</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
	(a)	(b)	(c)
	\$	\$	\$
3. Economic and Social Council, Commissions and Committees:			
(a) Meeting of Committee of experts on transport of dangerous goods (paragraph 7)	7,000	6,000	(1,000)
(b) Extension of ECOSOC 22nd session for one week (paragraph 9)	3,500	1,500	(2,000)
8. Department of Economic and Social Affairs:			
(a) Additional staff for work of Commission on Commodity Trade (paragraph 11)	20,500	-	(20,500)
13. Temporary assistance and consultants:			
(a) Editorial assistance for Yearbook on Human Rights (paragraph 13)	3,600	-	(3,600)
(b) Pilot studies on population problems (paragraph 15)	15,000	10,000	(5,000)
15. Common staff costs:			
(a) Additional staff for work of Commission on Commodity Trade (paragraph 11)	4,500	-	(4,500)
18. European Office:			
(a) Extension of ECOSOC session for one week (paragraph 9)	11,500	8,500	(3,000)

<u>Section and item</u>	<u>Secretary-General's estimate</u>	<u>Amount recommended by the Advisory Committee</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
	(a) \$	(b) \$	(c) \$
25. Contractual printing (paragraph 16):			
(a) Report of Committee on Slavery			
(b) Two additional issues of Narcotics Bulletin	6,310	-	(6,310)
(c) Convention on Recovery Abroad of Maintenance Obligations			
28. Technical Programmes:			
(a) Social Activities (paragraph 18)	231,500	150,000	(81,500)
28a. Technical Programmes:			
(a) Human Rights Activities (paragraph 20)	60,000	50,000	(10,000)
	<u>\$363,410</u>	<u>\$226,000</u>	<u>(\$137,410)</u>
