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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1960

Interim arrangements for the Library

Twenty-first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly at its
fourteenth session

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered a report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/796) on the interim arrangements for the Library while the new building is under construction.
2. It appears from the report that the Library can be relocated on a temporary basis in various parts of the Headquarters building at an estimated cost of \$114,000 in 1960. Expenditure in 1961 for moving the collection into the new building and restoring the areas used for temporary housing is estimated at an amount of \$54,000.
3. The above expenditure would be off-set by the following savings in a total amount of \$148,500, as a consequence of the demolition of the present building:
 - (a) \$60,000 of the sum of \$61,000 made available in the 1959 budget (section 13, chapter III) for repairs during 1959;
 - (b) \$36,500 requested in the 1960 budget estimates (section 15, chapter III) for repairs during 1960;
 - (c) \$52,000 requested in the 1960 budget estimates (section 13, chapter I) for operating expenses during 1960.
4. The Advisory Committee has inquired into the factors which entered into the Secretary-General's decision to utilize space within the Headquarters building, rather than rented space outside, for the temporary housing of the Library.

The Committee is informed that, apart from a significant economy of expenditure, the convenience of the users of the Library has been an important consideration. The Committee has also received evidence of the measures to be taken to minimize disruption of the library services and to ensure proper care of the collection, which will, of necessity, be distributed in a number of separate locations.

Departmental branch libraries will be expanded to the extent practicable, while a significant proportion of the collection involving less used books will be put away in temporary storage. The Committee trusts that, despite some unavoidable disruption, steps will be taken to ensure that essential library services and facilities continue to be provided.

5. It is understood that the construction work which the interim arrangements entail will be of a simple, utilitarian and strictly temporary nature. In respect of the relocation of the film facilities referred to in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/796, paragraph 2), however, a more permanent structure is envisaged. As explained in the Secretary-General's report on the gift of the Ford Foundation (A/4231, paragraph 45), these services are to be located in the basement of the General Assembly building. The proposed construction for this purpose will be designed to fit into any plans for the future development of the adjacent hangar area for the purpose of housing a television studio and processing centre.

6. The Advisory Committee is informed that the cost estimates given in the Secretary-General's report are based on a precise calculation of the cost of construction material, labour costs and contractual charges for moving the collection. While the estimate of \$37,200 for moving books, furniture and fixture in 1960 constitutes the largest single element of expenditure, the Committee understands that it represents the lowest of three bids obtained in accordance with the established procedure for the procurement of goods and services. The 1960 estimate includes, moreover, the cost of packing and crating material, which explains the lower estimate of \$34,100 for moving the collection back into the new building in 1961.

7. The estimated expenditure of \$114,000 in 1960 includes an amount of \$10,200 for contingencies. While not wishing to contest the retention of this item at this stage, the Advisory Committee would nevertheless recommend that every effort should be made to keep 1960 expenditure within the costed limits, without need for recourse to the contingency provision.

8. The recommendations given below are confined to the budgetary action that is required in terms of 1960. The Secretary-General will no doubt take into account the 1961 requirements in framing his initial budget estimates for that year; likewise, the savings that are anticipated in 1959, will, of course, be reflected in the Secretary-General's final report on the supplementary estimates for that year.

9. In the light of the foregoing, the Advisory Committee recommends:

(a) A provision of \$114,000 in a new chapter under section 13 of the 1960 budget, to provide for the costs of temporary housing of the Library;

(b) A reduction of \$52,000 in the appropriation already recommended by the Advisory Committee under section 13 of the 1960 budget,^{1/} as a result of the cancellation of the annual operating costs of the present building;

(c) A reduction of \$36,500 in the appropriation already recommended by the Advisory Committee under section 15 of the 1960 budget,^{2/} as a result of the elimination of the need for further repairs to the present library building.

10. To give effect to the above recommendations, the appropriations for 1960 already recommended by the Advisory Committee under sections 13 and 15 should be revised as follows:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Revised amount recommended by the Advisory Committee</u>
13. General expenses	\$5,642,000
15. Permanent equipment	\$ 550,800

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/4170), para. 198.

2/ Ibid., para. 210.

