



Seventeenth session
Agenda item 25

THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ESTABLISHED UNDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1654 (XVI)

Financial implications of the draft resolution submitted
by twenty-two Powers (A/L.410)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. N.A. QUAO (Ghana)

1. In accordance with rule 15⁴ of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee considered at its 97⁴th meeting on 13 December 1962, the financial implications of the twenty-two-Power draft resolution submitted in document A/L.410.
2. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/962), as well as a report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/5348) which the Chairman of that Committee presented orally.
3. In his report (A/C.5/962, para. 3) the Secretary-General stated that, pending the preparation by the Special Committee of a detailed work programme for 1963 in terms of the draft resolution (A/L.410), he was unable to make a precise estimate of the probable level of expenditure. At the present stage, he could be guided solely by the experience of 1962, when the Committee, in carrying out its task, incurred expenses of about \$125,000. On that basis, it seemed reasonable to anticipate a somewhat higher expenditure in 1963, to cover the additional tasks that would be laid upon the Special Committee, as well as the

financial consequences of enlarging its membership. Accordingly, the Secretary-General estimated at \$150,000 - to be provided under section 18 of the 1963 budget - the additional expenditure to which the adoption of the draft resolution (A/L.410) by the General Assembly would give rise.

4. In its report (A/5348) the Advisory Committee pointed out that, in the absence of specific information on the work programme of the Special Committee, it was not in a position either to agree or to disagree with the estimate of \$150,000 submitted by the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee also drew attention to the observations contained in its main budget report^{1/} to the effect that resolutions establishing subsidiary organs should make clear whether a committee would meet at Headquarters only or whether it would need to travel and, in the latter eventuality, indicate the scope and limits of the contemplated travel; and that where it was necessary for subsidiary organs to meet away from New York or Geneva, it appeared necessary to recognize the cost factors involved and accept a somewhat lower standard of conference services than was normally provided.

5. The Advisory Committee also referred to the letter which the Chairman of the Fifth Committee had addressed on 9 October 1962 to the President of the General Assembly on the need for as close an adherence as possible on the part of all organs and subsidiary organs, to rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. Had the terms of the draft resolution (A/L.410) met the requirements of that rule and the foregoing observations of the Advisory Committee, it would have been easier to estimate the financial implications to which it gave rise. Although the Advisory Committee was opposed in principle to the submission of supplementary estimates, the circumstances of the present case appeared to necessitate recourse to the resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/5207).

Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee decided to inform the General Assembly that, in the absence of any specific details to serve as a basis for firm cost estimates, the Committee was unable to comment on the figure of \$150,000 submitted by the Secretary-General as the probable financial implications of the draft resolution (A/L.410). Consequently the Committee recommends that any expenditure resulting from the adoption of the draft resolution should be incurred solely under the terms of the resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.
