



Agenda item 18

APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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

1. Following the reception by the Fifth Committee at its 959th meeting on 28 November 1962 of a letter^{1/} addressed to its Chairman by the President of the General Assembly on the question of revising the salary and allowances of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has given urgent consideration to the matter, and submits its advice and recommendations in the following paragraphs.

Basic emoluments

2. The Advisory Committee has considered the relation between the present net salary of the Secretary-General (\$20,000) established under General Assembly resolution 11 (I) of 24 January 1946 and the net salaries of (i) the next highest level of officials in the Secretariat (\$17,900); (ii) the executive heads of some of the major specialized agencies (\$24,000 in FAO, ILO and WHO), and (iii) judges of the International Court of Justice (\$25,000). In the light of these comparisons and of the other relevant factors, the Advisory Committee believes that it would be appropriate for the net base salary of the Secretary-General to be increased to \$27,500 from 1 January 1963, while retaining the existing provision of a furnished residence (the repairs and maintenance of which, excluding provision of household staff, are borne by the Organization). The Committee assumes that the General Assembly would wish to continue the application of post adjustment which has been made since 1 January 1962.

^{1/} See annex.

Representation allowance

3. The Secretary-General's representational obligations have grown with the growth of the Organization's membership and the costs of hospitality have increased. On the other hand, a measure of relief has been afforded since the Organization itself now absorbs all or part of the costs of certain "State" functions. The Advisory Committee considers that a reasonable solution would be to increase the present allowance from \$20,000 to \$22,500.

Other conditions of appointment

4. Provision is already made for the Secretary-General to receive an annual retirement allowance of one-half of his net salary (excluding allowances) on his retirement. However, no provision exists for benefits to a widow or any surviving children in the event of death in office or while in receipt of the retirement allowance, or for the contingency of death, injury or illness attributable to the performance of official duties; and the position is not very clear regarding the possibility of retirement before the end of the term of appointment. Certain aspects of these matters seem to the Committee to require further detailed study. Pending such further study, the Advisory Committee considers that it would be desirable to provide, effective from 1 January 1963, on a provisional basis, that:

- (i) If the Secretary-General should die in office or during the period that he is in receipt of a retirement allowance, his widow should receive, until death or remarriage, a pension equal to one half of the retirement allowance; suitable benefits should also be provided in the event of surviving minor children or other dependents within the degrees of relationship recognized by the Staff Rules and Regulations;
- (ii) The provisions of appendix D to the Staff Rules should be applicable mutatis mutandis in the event of death, injury or illness of the Secretary-General attributable to the performance of official duties on behalf of the United Nations.

Conclusion

5. If the Fifth Committee should decide to recommend that the General Assembly endorse the Advisory Committee's suggestions in paragraphs 2 to 4 above, the financial consequences of such endorsement would be of the order of \$10,000 net per annum.

ANNEX

Text of letter dated 28 November 1962 from the President of the
General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

As you are no doubt aware, item 18 on the agenda of the General Assembly is the Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and this item has been allocated to the Plenary. In this connexion it has been brought to my attention that the salary and allowances of the Secretary-General have remained unchanged since 1946. During the same period the salaries and allowances of Under-Secretaries in the Secretariat, of the Judges of the International Court of Justice and of the Heads of specialized agencies have been revised. For these reasons it has been suggested that this item may have financial implications which the Fifth Committee would wish to examine before the item is taken up in Plenary.

I shall be grateful if this matter could be taken up by the Fifth Committee as a matter of priority.
