



Seventeenth session
Agenda item 76

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION ON
THE WORK OF ITS FOURTEENTH SESSION

Financial implications of the draft resolution recommended
by the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/L.503)

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

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/939) containing the financial implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee at its 747th meeting on 26 October 1962 (A/C.6/L.503). In terms of that draft resolution, the General Assembly would take note of the report of the International Law Commission covering the work of its fourteenth session^{1/} which contains, inter alia, a decision to convene at Geneva, from 7 to 16 January 1963 and from 17 to 25 January 1963, respectively, two sub-committees of ten members each, one on State responsibility and the other on the succession of States and Governments.^{2/}

2. In his report, the Secretary-General has estimated the additional cost of convening and servicing the two sub-committees in Geneva as follows:

	\$
(a) Travel and subsistence of members	21,800
(b) Travel and subsistence of staff	2,300
(c) Temporary assistance	<u>6,500</u>
Total	<u>30,600</u>

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Supplement No. 9 (A/5209).

2/ Ibid., paras. 68 and 72.

The estimate under (a) provides for the travel costs of ten members of each sub-committee, based on current first-class fares by jet plane, from their places of residence to Geneva and return and subsistence at the authorized rate of \$23 per day for the duration of the meetings.

Under (b) provision is made for travel costs and subsistence allowances for two substantive staff members to be detailed from the Office of Legal Affairs at Headquarters to Geneva. The transportation costs in this latter regard have been computed on the basis of the revised standards of accommodation for travel of staff, as recommended by the Advisory Committee.^{3/}

The estimate under (c) provides for the recruitment of temporary staff required to service the meetings of the two sub-committees at Geneva, mainly Spanish language staff.

3. The Advisory Committee is informed that only three of the members of the first sub-committee will be members of the second sub-committee. This means that travel will have to be paid for seventeen representatives. The Committee would also note that these sub-committees were established without reference to their meeting between sessions of the International Law Commission and that, when it was subsequently decided that the sub-committees should meet midway between the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Commission, in January 1963, no change in the composition of the sub-committees was sought in an effort to reduce the cost to be incurred by the Organization for travel of members. The Advisory Committee would stress that some attention should be paid in the future to the financial implications of such decisions.

4. The Committee has questioned the estimates of \$6,500 for temporary assistance under section 3 of the budget. This estimate would cover the services of 5 professional staff (2 Spanish interpreters, 2 Spanish translators and 1 Spanish reviser) for a period of 18 to 21 days (including a round-trip between Spain and Geneva), and of 7 General Service staff (2 Spanish stenographers, (including travel from Spain), 3 bilingual stenographers and 2 mimeograph operators). It appears that the European Office has but a nucleus Spanish

^{3/} Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/5207), paras. 54-64.

language staff which must be strengthened whenever a conference is held at Geneva for which full Spanish language services must be provided. While the Advisory Committee would be inclined to accept the Secretary-General's estimate in respect of the Spanish language staff, it feels that the European Office, especially in January, when the conference workload is not heavy, should be able to provide 3 bilingual stenographers and 2 mimeograph operators from within its own manning table for the additional work occasioned by the two sub-committees of the International Law Commission. This would permit a saving of \$1,300, reducing the Secretary-General's estimate under section 3 to \$5,200.

5. The Advisory Committee has learned that only two rapporteurs for the International Law Commission have been appointed for 1963 whereas provision for four such rapporteurs had been made in section 1 of the 1963 budget estimates already approved in first reading by the Fifth Committee. This will therefore free an amount of \$3,000 under section 1 which can be applied against the estimate of \$21,800 now made by the Secretary-General under section 1 for travel and subsistence of members, reducing it to \$18,800. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee believes that some additional savings could well be achieved under that particular item in view of the fact that lower air fares are available in winter, such as the 17-day excursion tickets which are available at substantially reduced rates, and it feels therefore that a provision of \$17,500 under section 1 should prove sufficient.

6. In the light of the considerations set out above, the Advisory Committee believes that the total estimate of \$30,600 as submitted by the Secretary-General can safely be reduced to \$25,000, as follows:

	\$
Section 1 - Travel and subsistence of members	17,500
Section 3 - Temporary assistance	5,200
Section 5 - Travel and subsistence of staff	2,300

7. Accordingly the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly be informed that adoption of draft resolution A/C.6/L.503 would entail additional costs which could be covered with an extra appropriation of \$25,000 under the 1963 budget.