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UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. T.W. CUTTS (Australia)

1. At its 812th and 813th meetings, held on 8 and 9 December 1960, the Fifth Committee considered reports of the Secretary-General (A/4541 and Corr.1 and 2) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/4624) on the United Nations International School. In his report, the Secretary-General incorporated a report of the Board of Trustees on the operations of the International School Fund, established at the beginning of 1960 upon the invitation of the General Assembly (resolution 1439 (XIV) of 5 December 1959). In accordance with that resolution, the Secretary-General also reported on his efforts to assist the Board in finding suitable permanent accommodation for the School. He expressed his confidence that members would share the conviction that the future of the School is especially important in view of the increasing number of expatriate children resulting from the steadily expanding membership of the Organization. Finally he endorsed the hope expressed by the Board of Trustees that, in the light of resolution 1439 (XIV), the General Assembly would find it possible to make an appropriate grant to the International School Fund for 1961.
2. The Advisory Committee commented on the problem of accommodation for the School, the financial status of the International School Fund, the operational deficit anticipated for the current school year, enrolment, and the expansion of the bursary programme. The Committee then suggested that the General Assembly,

in acting along the lines reflected in the Secretary-General's report, might wish to emphasize two points:

(a) That the efforts to meet the basic objective of securing permanent accommodation for the School and of putting it on a self-supporting basis should be intensified; and

(b) That the School should endeavour to promote a greater measure of viability by a more active enrolment policy without a necessarily proportionate increase in expenditure.

3. Burma, India, Iraq, Lebanon, the United Arab Republic, the United States of America and Venezuela submitted a draft resolution (A/C.5/L.637) which, among other matters affecting the future of the School, suggested that the General Assembly should decide to contribute \$60,000 to the International School Fund in 1961 for the purpose of liquidating the operational deficit anticipated for the current school year, and provide an additional amount of \$20,000 for such expenses as may be required in 1961 in respect of the plans for permanent accommodation for the School.

4. The sponsors of the draft resolution stressed the importance of the School as a contributory factor in the recruitment and retention of international staff. They agreed on the need to intensify efforts to find permanent accommodation, to expand the enrolment of United Nations children, and to reduce the operating deficit.

5. Several members of the Committee expressed misgivings about the size of the deficit as well as the principle of continuing United Nations grants to the School. These delegations urged that, to eliminate the deficit, the enrolment should be increased above the 400-pupil level and expenditures on bursaries and scholarships reduced to a minimum.

6. The seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/L.637) was adopted by 53 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

Recommendation of the Committee

7. The Fifth Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General together with the report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International School (document A/4541 and Corr.1 and 2) and the thirty-first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly on this subject (A/4624),

Noting that despite its continuing physical handicaps, the United Nations International School appears to have made substantial educational progress and to have contributed to the stability of the staff of the United Nations Headquarters,

Noting also that the goal of finding permanent accommodations for the School has not yet been attained,

Recalling its resolution 1439 (XIV) of 5 December 1959 through which the General Assembly decided to contribute to the International School Fund for a period of five years such continuing financial assistance as the Assembly might consider necessary,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Mayor and the City of New York for their co-operation in extending the availability of the present temporary premises and in assisting in the search for a permanent site at reasonable cost in the vicinity of the Headquarters;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to assist the Board of Trustees in finding a suitable site for the School and in raising funds on a voluntary basis for the development of the permanent building and for creating an endowment fund which will make the School self-supporting at the earliest possible date;

3. Expresses the hope that the Board of Trustees and the School authorities will make every effort to avoid an operational deficit in the next school year and in particular to expand their efforts to make the School available to a larger number of United Nations children without a proportionate increase in expenditures;

4. Decides to contribute \$60,000 to the International School Fund for 1961 for the purpose of liquidating the operational deficit anticipated for the current school year;

5. Decides to make available an additional amount of \$20,000 for such expenses as may be required in 1961 in respect of the plans for permanent accommodation of the School.
