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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1959

Pattern of Conferences

Thirty-fourth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary
Questions to the thirteenth session of the General Assembly

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has examined the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/769) on a part of the projected pattern of conferences in 1959.
2. In his report, the Secretary-General submits an estimate of \$2,600 for a meeting of the Interim Committee on Olive Oil and \$39,700 for a second conference for the purpose of negotiation of a new International Wheat Agreement. For these two purposes a total provision of \$42,300 is requested, to be included in a new chapter V (Commodity Conferences) in the 1959 budget.
3. In addition, the Secretary-General indicates that it is likely that there will be further meetings early in 1959 of the Lead and Zinc Committee which has been set up to study the possibility of an international agreement covering these two commodities. These meetings would be followed in the latter half of 1959 by an international conference of plenipotentiaries for the purpose of concluding an agreement on the subject. It is indicated that requirements for these two purposes might amount, respectively, to \$5,000 and \$40,000. To provide a basis for advance planning, the Secretary-General proposes that the provision under paragraph 1 (c) of the draft resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for 1959 be increased from \$25,000 to \$45,000.
4. Finally, the Secretary-General, without at this stage attempting to provide estimates in respect of the meetings in 1959 of the Disarmament Commission, provides an indication of the possible level of certain of the expenditures which

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are expected to arise. In respect to the additional costs as a whole, he proposes that these be met under the provisions of paragraph 1 (a) of the resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

5. The Advisory Committee would recall its observations in paragraphs 38, 39, 40 and 76 of its third report^{1/} to the thirteenth session of the General Assembly, on the advantages to be derived from foreseeing commodity conferences wherever possible, and of planning them in advance. Such action would not only promote the methodical development of a complete conference programme for the ensuing year, but would also enable the provision of the necessary funds in the initial budget appropriations for the year in question, thereby avoiding the need to treat the related costs as unforeseen expenditure within the scope of the annual resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. The Advisory Committee therefore welcomes the submission of such estimates of this description as the Secretary-General has been able to provide at this stage.

6. In respect to the total estimate of \$42,300 in respect of meetings of the Interim Committee on Olive Oil and the conference for the negotiation of a new International Wheat Agreement, the Advisory Committee notes that in both instances the meetings in question will take place in Geneva and will, in fact, follow one another in point of time. This suggests that an effort might be made to plan the staffing of the two conferences on a joint basis, and that some reduction might be achieved in the number of General Service staff required by a greater utilization of existing resources at the Geneva Office. The Advisory Committee recommends, accordingly, that the total provision for the two conferences be limited to \$40,000.

7. At the same time, the Advisory Committee would point out that if the Wheat Conference had been convened in New York it would probably have been possible to service it at no substantial additional cost. While there may therefore have been valid reasons for the decision to convene the meeting in Geneva, the Committee regrets that the above fact was not given more careful consideration.

8. In respect to the expenditures expected to arise in connexion with meetings of the Lead and Zinc Committee and the conference of plenipotentiaries on this subject, the Advisory Committee notes the preliminary estimates provided by the

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirteenth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/3860).

Secretary-General and recommends the adoption of his proposal that the provision under paragraph 1 (c) of the draft resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for 1959 be increased from \$25,000 to \$45,000 for meeting the obligations in question. In this regard the Advisory Committee takes note of the Secretary-General's intention to keep it as currently informed as possible of the use to be made of this authorization.

9. In regard to meetings of the Disarmament Commission in 1959, the Advisory Committee appreciates the fact that total requirements will be determined by circumstances which cannot at this stage be foreseen with any precision. In his report, the Secretary-General has indicated the possible level of certain of the anticipated costs and it would appear that a wide range of expenditure might be involved. In the circumstances the Committee recommends that the additional costs for this purpose be met under the provisions of paragraph 1 (a) of the resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses in 1959.
