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## BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1958

Revised estimates for sections 6, 7 and 8

Provision of a secretariat to serve the Committee for Co-ordination of  
Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

### Twenty-second report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the twelfth session of the General Assembly

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered a report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/725) in which he proposes, as a result of the creation of a Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, to revise sections 6, 7 and 8 of the 1958 budget estimates.
2. In May 1957, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East endorsed the continuation of the secretariat's studies concerning the development of the Lower Mekong River Basin. ECAFE's decision was in turn endorsed by the Economic and Social Council (resolution 655 B (XXIV) and, in September 1957, a preparatory committee composed of representatives of the four riparian Governments (Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam) adopted a statute which established a Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin.
3. Article 3 of the statute calls upon the secretariat to co-operate with the Committee in the performance of the latter's functions and consequently, the Secretary-General proposes that a unit of two Professional and three General Service posts be created in the ECAFE secretariat, as part of the Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development. This proposal is made in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 1096 (XI), which provides that requests for additional appropriations for 1958 may be submitted, after the

circulation of the main budget estimates, in respect of projects which the Secretary-General certifies to be of the highest priority and which could not have been foreseen at the time the main budget estimates were circulated.

4. The Advisory Committee understands that the proposed new secretariat unit is needed to assure the co-ordination and continuity of the technical projects which will be undertaken by experts to be paid from extra-budgetary funds. The Committee wishes to emphasize this basic division of functions. It considers that, as the lower Mekong River programme develops, the increasing need for personnel should be financed outside the regular United Nations budget and that the secretariat's role should be limited to providing assistance in the co-ordination of the programme.

5. The Advisory Committee believes that the addition of two Professional and two General Service posts to the staff of ECAFE should adequately provide for the co-ordination and continuity of the technical projects. However, the Advisory Committee recommends that these additional posts should be continued only during the existence of the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin. Further, the justification for these posts should be reviewed whenever there is a change in the terms of reference of the Committee for Co-ordination, and also at the time the 1959 budget estimates are prepared, in the light of the development of the programme, and of the regular work-load of the Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development.

6. The 1958 costs of the Secretary-General's proposal and the Advisory Committee's recommendation are:

<u>Secretary-General's proposal</u>		<u>Advisory Committee's recommendation</u>	
\$	Section 6		\$
12,500	1 Senior Officer 1		12,500
10,540	1 First Officer 1		10,540
8,140	3 General Service 2 staff		5,440
4,370	Post adjustment for Professional posts		4,370
<u>35,550</u>			<u>32,850</u>

Section 7

7,100	Related common staff costs	6,560
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Section 8

2,500	Travel to consult with the four riparian Governments	2,500
1,500	Overseas trip for policy consultation if required	-
<u>46,650</u>		<u>41,910</u>

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