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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1958

Revised estimates for sections 6, 7, 8 and 13

Sixth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary
Questions to the twelfth session of the General Assembly

1. The Secretary-General has submitted (A/C.5/710 and Corr.1) upward revisions totalling \$159,200 in his budget estimates for 1958 consequent upon decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its 23rd and 24th sessions.
2. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions understands that these revisions are proposed on the basis of a broad re-assessment by the Secretary-General of the total resources requested in his initial budget submission (A/3600)^{1/} in the light of the over-all impact of the decisions of the Council. The proposed revisions accordingly represent, especially as regards staff resources, the net additional requirements which are necessary, in the Secretary-General's view, for the implementation of the Council's decisions.
3. The additional funds which are requested fall into two categories: (a) those for new meetings, for extension of meetings already scheduled or for other non-recurring items of expenditure; and (b) continuing staff costs or other items of expenditure which are not limited to 1958. The breakdown of the total amount between the two categories is as follows:

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Session, Supplement No. 5.

	<u>For 1958 only</u>	<u>Continuing costs</u>
	\$	\$
I. Committees and commissions of the Council:		
- Committees of the Council	8,600	-
- Commission on Narcotic Drugs	5,000	-
- Commission on the Status of Women	(5,000)	-
- Commission on Human Rights	51,600	-
Sub-total, I	<u>60,200</u>	<u>-</u>
II. Department of Economic and Social Affairs:		
- Transport of dangerous goods	7,000	-
- World Economic Survey	-	34,200 ^{a/}
- International consultation on world economic conditions	8,500	-
- Social policy activities	-	24,300 ^{a/}
- Narcotics Laboratory	-	-
Sub-total, II	<u>15,500</u>	<u>58,500^{a/}</u>
III. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East:		
- Expert meeting on paper and pulp industry	-	10,000 (for 1958 and 1959 only)
Sub-total, III	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>
IV. Economic Commission for Europe:		
- Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe:	-	- b/
Sub-total, IV	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
V. Department of Public Information:		
- Observance of tenth anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights	15,000	-
Sub-total, V	<u>15,000</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$90,700</u>	<u>\$68,500</u>

a/ 1958 costs; costs for later years are likely to be higher.

b/ Some continuing printing costs are anticipated; in 1958, these will be met as far as possible from appropriations already recommended for contractual printing.

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I. Committees and Commissions of the Council (paras. 3-8)^{2/}

4. The largest item under this heading is \$51,600 for the 1958 session of the Commission on Human Rights which the Economic and Social Council has decided should be held at Paris.

5. The Advisory Committee trusts that this and other decisions of the Council with regard to meetings of its subsidiary organs are provisional and subject to such decisions as the General Assembly may take, at its current session, concerning a new pattern of conferences for a period beginning 1 January 1958.

6. In any case, the Advisory Committee's position on the question of holding meetings of United Nations bodies away from their normal seats was re-stated in the Committee's report on the 1958 budget estimates where emphasis was placed on "the need to develop a policy whereby no meetings of United Nations bodies would be held away from their normal headquarters locations unless any extra costs were met by the host Government concerned" (A/3624, para. 42).^{3/}

7. There are the following further considerations in regard to the proposal to hold the 1958 session of the Commission on Human Rights at Paris:

(a) Apart from the added financial burden involved, 1958 will be administratively a difficult year in the matter of conferences, with the physical resources of the Secretariat being subjected to undue strain.^{4/} Any further departure from normal patterns will add to this already considerable strain;

(b) There has been no invitation from the Government of France to hold the session at Paris, and accordingly the policy indicated in paragraph 6 above may not be feasible; and

(c) The Advisory Committee recognizes that there may be factors, other than the purely administrative and budgetary ones, which have weighed with the Economic and Social Council in favour of the decision.

^{2/} The paragraphs referred to in the headings are those in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/710).

^{3/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Session, Supplement No. 7.

^{4/} This will be due largely to the fact that two major conferences, one on the law of the sea and the other on peaceful uses of atomic energy, are planned for 1958.

8. The Advisory Committee must consider the proposal mainly from an administrative and budgetary point of view; on this basis, it cannot recommend the appropriation of the additional amount which the Secretary-General has requested.

9. Should the General Assembly nevertheless decide in favour of holding the session of the Commission on Human Rights at Paris, the Advisory Committee would suggest that efforts should be made to hold expenditures for the five items listed by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/710, para. 8) to a total of \$40,000.

10. As regards the other items concerning committees and commissions of the Council, the Advisory Committee notes that the increase of \$5,000 in respect of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will be offset by a corresponding decrease for the Commission on the Status of Women. The Committee recommends that the relatively small additional amounts needed for the committees of the Council should be found from within the appropriations already recommended under sections 6 and 8 of the 1958 budget.^{5/} This recommendation is subject to whatever decision is finally adopted with regard to the possibility of modifying the arrangements for the 1958 summer session of the Economic and Social Council (see A/3624, para. 57).^{6/}

II. Department of Economic and Social Affairs (paras. 9-18)

11. A total amount of \$74,000 is requested under this heading comprising four separate items (see tabular statement under paragraph 3 above). While the Advisory Committee concurs in the request for \$8,500 for convening a panel of experts in connexion with international consultation on world economic conditions, it has serious reservations regarding the balance of the amount requested (\$65,500) all of which relates to staff costs.

12. The importance of the additional work which is envisaged in regard to the World Economic Survey and to social policy activities has been brought out by the Economic and Social Council. Under ideal conditions of operation of the

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Session, Supplement No.7 (A/3624).

6/ Ibid.

new form of the budget, the essential resources necessary for the implementation of these new tasks should be found from total available appropriations without specific additional provision, having regard to the fact that the proposed work represents an important but limited extension of work that is already being done in the Secretariat. It might nevertheless be difficult, in the first year of operation with the new budget form, to make all the readjustments in programme priorities and personnel assignments which the assumption of the new responsibilities would entail.

13. In these circumstances, the Advisory Committee is prepared to recommend an additional provision of \$25,000 for 1958, \$21,000 under section 6 and \$4,000 under section 7, in addition to the \$8,500 under section 6 mentioned in paragraph 11 above. The Committee further recommends that any expenditures necessary for the meeting of the expert group on the transport of dangerous goods should be met out of the appropriations under section 6 without specific further provision.

III. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (paras. 19-21)

14. The Secretary-General has requested additional provision under section 6 of the 1958 budget in the amount of \$10,000, to meet the preparatory costs of a Far Eastern meeting of technical experts on the pulp and paper industry to be convened jointly by ECAFE and FAO in mid-1959.

15. While the Advisory Committee notes that the project is considered as having a high priority by the governments of the region, it should be possible, through adjustments in the proposed utilization of funds already recommended for consultant expenditures in ECAFE, to meet any necessary preparatory costs. It is of interest that while the over-all budgetary provisions for ECAFE included in the Secretary-General's initial submission (A/3600) were apparently considered as sufficient generally to meet the requirements of the 1958 work programme of the Commission, specific additional provision has been requested for this one project.

IV. Economic Commission for Europe (paras. 22-23)

16. The proposed conversion of the quarterly Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe from its present bilingual form into a trilingual bulletin is expected to entail additional printing costs which, for 1958, the Secretary-General will attempt to meet from the over-all appropriations for contractual printing. No additional provision is requested.

V. Department of Public Information (paras. 24-26)

17. The Secretary-General requests an amount of \$15,000 under section 13 for assistance in promoting national and international film programmes in connexion with the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Advisory Committee understands that a substantial part of the information programme called for by the Economic and Social Council in the Annex to resolution 651B(XXIV) of 24 July 1957 will be implemented within normal appropriations; the additional provision requested represents, in the Secretary-General's view, an item of expenditure which cannot be met out of such appropriations.

18. The Advisory Committee notes that the information programme has still to be finalized by the Committee of Governments established under the terms of the Council resolution cited above. The Committee would suggest that any necessary expenditures for the proposed film programme should be provided for within the appropriations already recommended under section 13 for public information supplies and services.

Summary of recommendations

19. The following is a summary of the Advisory Committee's recommendations in the preceding paragraphs, arranged by appropriation sections of the 1958 budget:

Revisions in the 1958 estimates

<u>Section</u>	Secretary-General's estimate	Amounts recommended by the Advisory Committee	
		Reductions	
	\$	\$	\$
6. Salaries and wages:			
Established posts	48,700	21,000	27,700
Temporary assistance	39,400	-	39,400
Consultants	18,500	8,500	10,000
Total, section 6	106,600	29,500	77,100
7. Common staff costs	9,800	4,000	5,800
8. Travel of staff	24,300	-	24,300
13. General expenses	18,500	-	18,500
Grand total	\$159,200	\$33,500	\$125,700
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