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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1964

Revised estimates for section 8 arising from the requirements of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East in connexion with the occupation of the new annex building

Twenty-first report of the Advisory Committee on Administration and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly at its eighteenth session

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/996) containing revised estimates for section 8 of the 1964 budget arising from the requirements of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) in connexion with the occupation of the new annex.
2. In his report, the Secretary-General requests an additional appropriation of \$46,200 under this section consisting of \$21,000 for the purchase and installation of air-conditioning equipment and \$25,200 for the purchase and installation of telephone equipment.
3. The Secretary-General states that there is an urgent need to replace the air-conditioning units serving the ECAFE conference room and the delegates' lounge. The existing units which were installed by the Government of Thailand at its expense several years ago have ceased to function satisfactorily. The cost of this replacement which would normally have been borne by the Government of Thailand is equivalent to that of the air-conditioning units which were installed by the Government in the new annex to the ECAFE building. The latter installation was to have been the responsibility of the United Nations under the terms of an agreement concluded with the Government. It is, therefore, the

Secretary-General's suggestion that the replacement of the air-conditioning units in the conference room and the delegates' lounge should be financed by the United Nations in consideration of the expenditure already incurred by the Government of Thailand in air-conditioning the annex. The Advisory Committee concurs in this suggestion.

4. With respect to the purchase and installation of a new telephone exchange, complete with 200 telephone instruments, at an estimated cost of \$25,200, the Advisory Committee considered whether, in view of the very substantial sums which the Organization is called upon to disburse in 1964 for various construction and capital improvement projects, this expenditure could not be postponed. It is satisfied, however, on the basis of information submitted to it, that such postponement would adversely affect the work of the Commission. Further, since the total cost of the installation on a purchase basis would be less than the equivalent of three years' rental, and maintenance costs would not exceed \$100 per month, the Advisory Committee concluded that acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposal would be in the Organization's interest. The Advisory Committee was given to understand that the new equipment would be more durable than the existing installation.

5. For the foregoing considerations, the Advisory Committee would recommend that the General Assembly approve an additional provision of \$46,200 for 1964 to cover the estimated cost of replacing the telephone installation and certain air-conditioning units in the ECAFE building at Bangkok. This provision would be distributed as follows: \$21,000 under chapter I of section 8 for the air conditioning; and \$25,200 under chapter IV of section 8 for the telephone installation.
