

GENERAL
ASSEMBLYDistr.
GENERALA/2306
11 December 1952

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Seventh session
Agenda item 42

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1953

Reductions in total 1953 appropriations

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

1. At its 355th meeting on 6 November 1952, the Fifth Committee adopted a United Kingdom proposal, as amended by the United States Delegation, which reads as follows:

"The Fifth Committee welcomes the assurance of the Secretary-General that he will submit proposals for its consideration of the second reading of the budget which will reduce the total appropriation requested for 1953 (including all supplementary items to be presented) to \$48,700,000 gross."

2. The present position, as regards the 1953 estimates, is shown in the following table:

	<u>U.S. Dollars</u>
Amount proposed by the Secretary-General (A/2125)	47,765,200
Reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee (A/2157)	990,900
carried forward	\$46,774,300

brought forward \$46,774,300

<u>Less:</u> (a) Token provision in respect of section 5, pending sub submission of detailed estimates for missions of investigation and conciliation conciliation (see below)	2,000,000	
(b) Amount recommended in respect of section 5a, not yet considered by Fifth Committee (see below)	546,200	2,546,200
		44,228,100

Items recommended for reduction by the Advisory Committee but restored by the Fifth Committee:

Visiting Mission	19,900 ^{1/}	
Public information activities	57,500	
Passenger cars	22,150	
Common staff costs	74,900	174,450
		44,402,550

Supplementary estimates:

Headquarters construction costs	1,000,000	
Spanish as a working language of the Economic and Social Council	350,000	
International Bureau for Declarations of Death	12,500	
International Law Commission	22,000	
Economic development of under-developed countries	9,250	
Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council (fourteenth session)	259,200	1,652,950
	carried forward	46,055,500

^{1/} The restoration of \$19,900 was made on the basis of a token provision of \$40,000 recommended in respect of the 1953 Visiting Mission (A/2157, paragraph 91).

brought forward 46,055,500

Detailed estimates under section 5 in justification for the token provision of \$2,000,000 (see (a) above):

Korean Service Medals	300,000	
Tribunal in Libya	120,000	
Tribunal in Eritrea	25,700	
India - Pakistan mission	680,000	
Military Observers in Greece	110,000	
Advisory Council in Somaliland	145,000	
Repatriation of Greek children	15,000	1,395,700

Items still to be considered by the Fifth Committee:

Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine	462,100 ^{2/}	
Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea	256,700 ^{2/}	
Conciliation Commission for Palestine	49,000 ^{3/}	
Field Service (section 5a - see (b) above)	546,200	1,314,000
Total		48,765,200
Savings proposed by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/526, paragraph 5)		431,850

Tentative estimate of total appropriation for 1953, gross 48,333,350

On this basis, the net appropriation

On this basis, the net appropriation figure, after deduction of miscellaneous income estimated at \$6,238,200, would be \$42,095,150. With the addition of \$2,450,880 in respect of the 1952 supplementary estimates and of \$330,000 in respect of the anticipated short-fall of miscellaneous income for

^{2/} Secretary-General's estimate

^{3/} Tentative estimate, no decision yet taken by Ad Hoc Political Committee.

1952, the total to be assessed on Member States would amount to \$44,876,030. The latter figure would be subject to further adjustment through the surrender of \$550,000, in respect of the financial year 1951, under Financial Regulation 4.4. The net assessment figure would thus amount to \$44,326,030. (It may, however, be noted that the General Assembly has still to take a decision on the treatment of the balances of surplus account at year end 1950 (\$1,239,203) and 1951 (\$380,511). The Advisory Committee has concurred in the Secretary-General's proposal that these amounts should respectively be retained in, and transferred to, the Working Capital Fund for 1953.)

3. As is indicated in the report by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/526, paragraphs 3 - 4), it was agreed in the Fifth Committee:

- (a) that the proposed reductions should amount to approximately \$735,000;
- (b) that certain reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee, but contested by the Secretary-General, which had been approved by the Fifth Committee should count towards the total figure of reduction. Reductions within this category total \$172,850;
- (c) that the reduction of \$130,300 in respect of agenda item 55 on the Evidence of Customary International Law should also be included within the total figure of \$735,000.

4. The Secretary-General now submits (A/C.5/526, paragraph 5) further reductions to an amount of \$431,850, which combined with the above items (\$172,850 and \$130,300) will, if approved, produce a total reduction of \$735,000, and result in a gross appropriation of approximately \$48,350,000 in respect of the year 1953.

5. The Advisory Committee has given careful consideration to the various items comprising the proposed additional reduction of \$431,850. It desires in the first place to record its high appreciation of the manner in which the Secretary-General has complied with the request of the Fifth Committee in effecting economies going beyond those recommended by the Advisory Committee. An assurance has been given to the Committee that no substantive programme or service will be impaired, and on this basis the Secretary-General's proposals, which are limited to the year 1953, are recommended for adoption.

6. These items of reduction fall into four main categories:

- (a) Delayed recruitment to vacancies resulting from the review of temporary appointments;
- (b) Delayed recruitment to vacancies otherwise arising;
- (c) Suspension or curtailment of certain activities during 1953;
- (d) Adoption of more economical methods or arrangements.

7. It may be noted that the reductions under points (a) and (b) in paragraph 6 are additional to the adjustment for turnover of staff (4 per cent), which amounts in the 1953 estimates to about \$800,000; and that, while the delays in recruitment under point (a) will be of varying length, those under point (b) will for the most part cover the full year. Furthermore, the total economy of \$224,350 on delayed recruitment includes \$112,000 arising out of the provisional 1953 arrangements for the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs which were reviewed by the Advisory Committee in its report on the organization of the Secretariat (A/2290, paragraphs 8 - 12). The Committee was also informed that the duties of Director of the Population Division will be taken over by the Principal Director of the Department upon a vacancy's occurring in the former post. Such an arrangement accords with a recent recommendation of the Advisory Committee^{4/}. The Committee likewise concurs in the transfer to the Department of Economic Affairs of a part of the staff, together with certain functions, of the Office of the Director of Co-ordination for Economic and Social Matters. The possible location of this Office in a unified Department of Economic and Social Affairs was suggested by the Committee in its report on the 1953 budget estimates^{5/}.

8. As regards the remaining items of reduction, the Advisory Committee concurs in the Secretary-General's proposal that the appropriations for travel on official business under various Headquarters budget sections should be administered as a unit. It should be possible by this means to give fuller effect to the Committee's repeated recommendation that this item of expenditure should be brought under strictest control. On the related question of the use

^{4/} A/2157, paragraph 148, Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Supplement No. 7.

^{5/} Ibid., paragraph 106.

of contractual travel services, the Committee has previously expressed certain reservations regarding the introduction of such an arrangement.^{6/} It trusts that any contract which may be entered into will adequately provide for the special requirements of the United Nations, and that account will also be taken of the sharp fluctuations in volume of business which may occur from year to year.

9. Most of the other reductions proposed by the Secretary-General conform in principle to recommendations or suggestions of the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee, for example, the review of telecommunication operations, improvements in the utilization of the Headquarters Guard Force, stricter control over the distribution of documents and over stationery and other office supplies, and a revision of the cleaning standards of the General Assembly Hall and the Conference Area. No comment is offered on the proposed cancellation of the 1953 session of the International Civil Service Advisory Board, which is a matter for consultation with the Board and the executive heads of the specialized agencies.

10. The Advisory Committee considers that the Secretary-General's proposals are in accord with the intent of the resolution, and it accordingly recommends that the 1953 appropriation should be reduced by the additional amount of \$431,850 proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 5 of his report (A/C.5/526).

^{6/} A/2157, paragraph 227, Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Supplement No. 7.