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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1954

Section 32. The International Court of Justice

Fourth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and  
Budgetary Questions to the eighth session of the General Assembly

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Estimate submitted by the Secretary-General	778,600
Estimate recommended by the Advisory Committee	621,980
1952 (actual expense)	627,116
1953 (appropriation)	630,800

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has examined the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General<sup>1/</sup> in respect of section 32 - The International Court of Justice. The provision proposed for 1954 amounts to \$778,600 or \$147,800 more than the 1953 appropriation, the increase being mainly attributable to the proposal, under item (ii) of chapter I, for the funding of pensions that may be awarded to members of the International Court of Justice. Other items in chapter I are proposed at the same level as for 1953, while salaries, wages and expenses of the Registry (chapter II) and common services (chapter III) show a slight decrease.

2. The funding of members' pensions was first contemplated in 1946, when a Joint Sub-Committee of the Fifth and Sixth Committees reported to the General Assembly at the second part of its first session recommending, among other things, the establishment of a special pension fund so that the annual budgetary charge might be stabilized. On the basis of the Sub-Committee's

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighth Session, Supplement No.5, document A/2483, pages 161 to 163.

report, the General Assembly adopted resolution 86 (I) of 11 December 1946, in which, however, a specific reference to this matter is not included.

3. Independently of the merits of the scheme now proposed, the Advisory Committee considers it important to avoid a situation in which differing methods are applied for financing the retirement and other pensions of high officials of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies. Certain of these methods are of a purely ad hoc character, and others appear to be related more to the holder of the office than to the office itself. Therefore, while recognizing that the proposal submitted with the 1954 budget estimates does make for uniformity, since the fund would be brought administratively within the framework of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, the Committee suggests that it would nevertheless be preferable, in the first instance, to study the possibility of a comprehensive funding of all pensions not already covered by that Fund. Accordingly, it is recommended that consideration of the proposal should be postponed for one year, during which time supplementary information on its financial implications could be submitted, and that item (ii) of chapter I should be reduced by \$152,820 to \$13,850, the latter figure including a token provision of \$100 in respect of the pension fund.

4. As regards chapter II (salaries, wages and expenses of the Registry), the Committee concurs, with one exception, in the proposed up-gradings (item (1)), which are intended as adjustments in keeping with equivalent Headquarters classifications. In the case of the re-classification of a First Officer post at Senior Officer level, the proposal appears to the Committee to be based rather on the qualifications of the present holder than on an increase in the responsibilities of the post. On that ground alone it is not recommended for approval.

5. Reductions of \$2,000 on temporary assistance (item (ii)) and \$400 on overtime (item (iii)) are also recommended. As regards travel on official business (item (xii)), the figure of \$3,500 representing the actual 1952 expenditure augmented by the cost of one round trip to United Nations Headquarters should prove sufficient.

6. On this basis, the Advisory Committee recommends an appropriation of \$621,980 for section 32, representing a reduction of \$156,620 on the figure submitted.

Analysis of reductions recommended

Chapter I

(ii) Contributions, Pension Fund	152,820	
Total reduction, chapter I		152,820

Chapter II

(i) Established posts	400	
(ii) Temporary assistance	2,000	
(iii) Overtime	400	
(xii) Travel on official business	1,000	
Total reduction, chapter II		3,800
TOTAL REDUCTIONS		\$156,620