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SYSTEM OF ALLOWANCES TO MEMBERS OF COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES
AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR OTHER
ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Payment of honoraria to the Presidents, Vice-Presidents and
members of the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Drug
Supervisory Body

Twelfth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions to the ninth session of the General Assembly

1. At its 443rd meeting on 22 October 1954, the Fifth Committee decided:
 - (a) To recommend to the General Assembly the payment of honoraria in respect of work performed between sessions by the Presidents, Vice-Presidents and other members of the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Drug Supervisory Body; and
 - (b) To request the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to consider and report on the appropriate amounts and the mode of payment of such honoraria.
2. The present report is limited to point (b) above.
3. It is clear from the discussions in the Fifth Committee (442nd and 443rd meetings) that the purpose of the honoraria is to afford a general recognition of the services which the members of the Opium Board and the Supervisory Body render. The honoraria are not intended as reimbursement or fee for specific tasks performed on behalf of the two bodies. This is a relevant consideration in determining the appropriate scale of payments.
4. The members of the Permanent Central Opium Board are precluded, under the terms of article 19 of the 1925 Convention on Narcotic Drugs, from holding any office entailing a position of direct dependence on Governments. While

this restriction does not apply to the Drug Supervisory Body, two of the four members now serving on that body also serve on the Opium Board. For the present purposes joint consideration may be given to the two organs.

5. To the extent that the members are also engaged between sessions in work on behalf of these two organs, they may suffer a diminution in professional earnings. This applies principally to the Presidents and Vice-Presidents, who are charged with duties of representation, including, in certain cases, ^{1/} attendance at sessions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and occasionally at other conferences.

6. The scale of honoraria which the Advisory Committee recommends in paragraph 8 below is intended to reflect the difference (which appears to be considerable) in the responsibilities, both substantive and representational, which must be undertaken respectively by (a) the Presidents; (b) the Vice-Presidents; and (c) the other members of the two bodies. The Committee suggests, however, that the scale should be flexible enough to permit of adjustment to special circumstances. For example, cases may arise where the Opium Board or the Supervisory Body is represented at a session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs not by one of its office-holders but by an ordinary member. In such an eventuality the payments might be suitably re-apportioned within the total amount appropriated for the honoraria.

7. As regards the mode of payment, the Advisory Committee favours, as a matter of administrative simplicity, a system of annual, lump-sum payments. The possible alternative of computing payments on the basis of the time actually

^{1/} The 1955 budget estimates (A/2647) include the following provision:

- (a) Under section 3, chapter III, \$2,600 to cover the travel expenses of one representative of the Board and one representative of the Supervisory Body in connexion with the session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;
- (b) Under section 3a, \$1,300 to cover "possible travel and expenses in connexion with representation of the Board at meetings of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly".

spent on the work in question offers no advantage. It would entail the submission of detailed claims and unnecessary paper work.

8. The following is the scale of honoraria which the Advisory Committee recommends:

Presidents (two).....	\$1,000 per annum each
Vice-Presidents (two).....	500 " " "
Other members.....	300 " " "

(A single honorarium would be payable according to this scale irrespective of whether membership is of one or both bodies.)

9. The financial implications of this recommendation amount, on the basis of the present membership^{2/}, to \$4,800, as compared with the figure of \$7,300 under the Secretary-General's suggestion (A/2687, paragraph 24, section B (b)(i)), which provides for honoraria of \$1,200, \$700 and \$500 respectively for the Presidents, Vice-Presidents and members, and which further provides that a member serving on both bodies shall receive 50 per cent of the second honorarium.

^{2/} The one vacancy in the membership of the Permanent Central Opium Board is to be filled at the resumed eighteenth session of the Economic and Social Council (November 1954). The figure of \$4,800 pre-supposes that the person so appointed will not also be a member of the Supervisory Body.