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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1969

Grant towards the extension and improvement of the physical
facilities of the International School at Geneva

Seventeenth report of the Advisory Committee on
Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the
General Assembly at its twenty-third session

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General, A/C.5/1188, suggesting that the General Assembly may wish to consider the approval of a further grant of \$30,000 in 1969, in order to provide encouragement to the International School at Geneva and to assist its Governing Board in obtaining longer-range pledges from other sources for the financing of the programme of extension and improvement of the physical facilities of the School.
2. The Advisory Committee would recall that requests for financial assistance to the International School at Geneva have now been made to the General Assembly for three years in succession. In the budget estimates for the financial year 1967,^{1/} the Secretary-General indicated that the administration of the School had launched an intensive fund-raising campaign to obtain during the next ten years the capital funds necessary to construct additional classrooms and to acquire additional facilities and equipment. The Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that the School authorities were endeavouring to obtain about \$100,000 annually for ten years from the international organizations in Geneva and to raise an additional \$200,000 a year for the same period from local business firms with employees whose children are attending the School. It was

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session,
Supplement No. 5 (A/6305), paras. 12.17-12.24.

hoped that those amounts, together with contributions from parents and alumni, would attract important additional contributions from foundations that had indicated willingness to consider matching arrangements. The Secretary-General therefore considered that it would be appropriate if the United Nations were to contribute an amount of \$30,000 in 1967. The General Assembly approved a credit of \$30,000 in 1967 and a further amount of \$30,000 in 1968.

3. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 14 of document A/C.5/1188 that the present plan differs from the forecast made in 1966 in that the total anticipated contribution from the United Nations and the specialized agencies has been reduced from \$1 million to \$750,000; the School hopes to raise the difference, i.e. \$250,000 from individuals.

4. An analysis of the information furnished by the Secretary-General indicates that progress during the past two years has fallen far short of expectations. Of the Geneva-based international organizations, only WHO responded to the School Board's appeal and appropriated annually \$25,000 (1967, 1968 and 1969). Contributions received from business concerns and individuals have amounted to only one quarter of the target for 1967 and 1968.

5. It is thus becoming increasingly clear that, unless there is a marked improvement in the near future, the chances of extending and improving the physical facilities of the School through the current fund-raising drive will be seriously jeopardized. In these circumstances, the continued usefulness of a contribution from the United Nations regular budget becomes questionable.

6. At the same time, the Advisory Committee noted that the School's position on current account is healthy, with a surplus of \$10,000 to \$20,000 being anticipated in the academic year 1968/1969, when it has proved possible to raise student enrolment to 1,560 (as against 1,398 in 1967/1968 and 1,481 in 1966/1967). This increase resulted from improvements carried out in 1967/1968 at a cost of \$185,000. As the Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 10 of his report, \$110,000 of this amount has come from contributions to the capital development fund, the balance being now carried on loan account. The Advisory Committee has been informed that the extension of the arrangement with the Canton of Geneva for the lease of land to the School will not have an adverse

effect on the current account of the School, and that the rent paid to the Canton is nominal.

7. The Advisory Committee observed from paragraph 14 of the report by the Secretary-General that some of the larger companies located in Geneva have agreed to contribute to the development fund, provided equivalent contributions are forthcoming from other users. In addition, the School intends to seek financial support from the Cantonal authorities, and to launch a fresh appeal to foundations for matching funds, once a reasonable base for contributions from local sources has been established; in addition, the alumni groups are being reconstituted and will be asked to contribute to the development programme.

8. Bearing these possible developments in mind, the Advisory Committee reached the conclusion that the newly reorganized Board and administration of the School should be given a further opportunity for instilling new vigour into the fund-raising drive. Consequently, the Committee would not oppose the recommendation by the Secretary-General in paragraph 17 of his report that the General Assembly may wish to approve a further grant of \$30,000 to the International School at Geneva in 1969, on the understanding that this amount, together with the contributions already voted by the General Assembly in 1967 and 1968 should be credited to the special trust fund already established for this purpose.

9. At the same time, the Advisory Committee would stress that the funds already appropriated or to be appropriated by the General Assembly in this connexion constitute a contribution towards the extension and improvement of the physical facilities of the International School at Geneva, and that the United Nations cannot be expected to assume the main responsibility for financing this project. The Secretary-General may wish to bring this point to the attention of the heads of the Geneva-based international organizations which have not yet made any contribution to the School.

10. The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the progress report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session should be detailed and complete. It should indicate separately for each year since 1967 the amounts contributed or pledged by (a) the specialized agencies, (b) Geneva-based commercial and industrial companies, (c) private individuals,

including parents, alumni etc., and (d) foundations and institutions based outside Geneva. Pending receipt of such information, the Advisory Committee would reserve its judgement on whether any of the amounts contributed by the United Nations should be released to the School from the special trust fund.
