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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1969

Programme of major maintenance and improvement of the
Palais des Nations at Geneva

Twenty-second 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 (A/C.5/1189) on the programme of major maintenance and improvement of the Palais des Nations at Geneva.
2. In reviewing the Secretary-General's report the Committee recalled that the long-term programme of major maintenance and improvement of the Palais des Nations resulted from a decision taken by the General Assembly at its twentieth session^{1/} on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.^{2/} The total cost of the programme was originally estimated at \$4,894,200 spread over the years 1967-1974. This figure was subsequently reduced to \$4,856,047.
3. In its main report on the budget estimates for 1969 under section 7 (Building and improvements to premises), the Advisory Committee in considering the Secretary-General's request for an amount of \$119,800 to cover seven items which were additional to the long-term programme approved for the Palais des Nations, expressed the view^{3/} that these items should have been included in that programme.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 76, document A/6223.

^{2/} Ibid., document A/6137, para. 26.

^{3/} Ibid., Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/7207), para. 197.

Accordingly, the Committee recommended that the request for \$119,800 should be deleted pending the submission, by the Secretary-General to the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, of a detailed report updating and integrating the major maintenance requirements at Geneva, together with an indication of priorities established for their implementation. The Secretary-General's report, which is now before the General Assembly (A/C.5/1189), does not request reinstatement of the amount of \$119,800.

4. The Advisory Committee, although welcoming the report of the Secretary-General which indicates in general terms the progress made in implementing the programme as approved by the General Assembly, nevertheless considers that more precise information is required before the Committee can evaluate the action already taken and proposed for full implementation of the programme. In particular, the Committee notes that a number of projects will need to be adjusted in the light of the recent decisions taken by the Fifth Committee,^{4/} whereby it recommended that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's revised proposals for the extension of the conference and ancillary facilities at the Palais des Nations (A/C.5/1179).

5. The Advisory Committee therefore welcomes the Secretary-General's intention to reassess the balance of the major maintenance and improvement programme in relation, inter alia, to the plans for the extension of the conference facilities at the Palais, and to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session. The Advisory Committee would request that the Secretary-General, in preparing his report, should also provide detailed information on the projects completed during the years 1967 and 1968, together with the actual costs incurred, as compared with the estimates approved by the General Assembly; reliable cost estimates of these projects to be undertaken in 1969 and 1970, as compared with the original estimates; and revised cost estimates of these items to be carried out during the period 1971-1974. The Committee would also like to receive details of those items of the major maintenance and improvement programme which are directly related to the extension of the Palais des Nations, including, where appropriate, revised cost estimates, suggested changes in the nature of the items, and proposed dates for the implementation of the projects. In this connexion, the

^{4/} See A/C.5/SR.1265.

Committee considers that there should be a constant preoccupation on the part of the Administration to ensure that the approved programme of major maintenance and improvement of the Palais is closely linked to the various stages of construction of the extension of the new wing.

6. In view of the Secretary-General's intention to reassess the balance of the programme and report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session,^{5/} no further action is required by the Assembly as regards the 1969 budget estimates. The Advisory Committee awaits with interest the report of the Secretary-General, and trusts that the total financial implications will be contained within the annual amounts already approved by the Assembly for the major maintenance and improvement programme of the Palais des Nations.

^{5/} A/C.5/1189, para. 16.