



Fifth session
Agenda item 21

FORMER ITALIAN COLONIES:

- (a) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSIONER IN LIBYA
- (b) REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTERING POWERS IN LIBYA

Financial implications of the draft resolution proposed
by the Ad Hoc Political Committee (A/1457)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. B. G. FOURIE (Union of South Africa)

1. In accordance with rule 152 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee, at its 259th and 261st meetings held on 3 and 7 November 1950, considered the effect on the budget estimates for 1951 of the draft resolution adopted by the Ad Hoc Political Committee concerning Libya (A/1457). The draft resolution recommends that the United Nations Commissioner, aided and guided by the advice of the members of the Council for Libya, shall proceed immediately to draw up a programme in co-operation with the Administering Powers for the progressive transfer of power to a Provisional Government of Libya to be established by a National Assembly in a manner which will ensure the independence and unity of Libya by 1 January 1952.

The Fifth Committee had before it a report by the Secretary-General (A/5/392), informing it that the funds which he estimated would be required for the implementation of this draft resolution and of General Assembly Resolution 289 (IV) (providing for the appointment and functions of the Commissioner and Council), would amount in 1951 to a total of \$619,300, against there would be offsetting income of \$50,000 from the assessments to be levied on the salaries of internationally recruited and temporary replacement staff.

3. In response to the Fifth Committee's request, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions examined the Secretary-General's estimates

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and reported its conclusions to the Fifth Committee in its twelfth report of 1950 (A/1479). The Advisory Committee noted that the estimated expenditure for 1951 shows a further sharp increase, due principally to the item for temporary assistance, which included provision for 25 internationally recruited staff members by comparison with the corresponding figures of 4 and 14 respectively in the original and in the revised manning tables for 1950. It drew attention also to the fact that estimated expenditure on temporary assistance (\$314,400) comprised the cost of replacement of only 50 per cent of the staff detailed from Headquarters, the direct gross salary costs of the remaining Headquarters' staff temporarily serving with the Office of the Commissioner amounting to approximately \$73,000. The view was expressed by the Advisory Committee that the staffing proposals for 1951, particularly with regard to political and technical advisers, offered scope for certain economies, in addition to which further savings should result from the fact that the Secretary-General's estimate for temporary assistance was based on a full complement of staff for the whole of 1951, whereas, apart from probable delays in recruitment, the services of the technical advisers are not likely to be continuous throughout the year. On the basis of these observations, the Advisory Committee reached the conclusion that the estimate, as submitted by the Secretary-General, should be reduced by a global amount of \$37,100 to a total (after allowing for the transfer to section 25 of the budget of an item of \$7,200 for contractual printing) of \$575,000, for which provision would require to be made under section 5, chapter VII. The Fifth Committee was informed that the Secretary-General was prepared to concur in the Advisory Committee's recommendation, on the understanding that the reduction proposed was of a global nature, the detailed application of which would be left to his discretion. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee subsequently agreed with this understanding.

4. The Fifth Committee was accordingly invited to consider the budgetary provision necessary for 1951 in the light of the draft resolution of the Ad Hoc Political Committee and of the Advisory Committee's recommendations. The representative of Pakistan called attention to what his delegation considered to be excessive staffing requirements for the office of the United Nations Commissioner, as well as an unduly liberal estimate for local transportation, including operation and maintenance of transportation equipment, for travel and subsistence of staff and for miscellaneous supplies and contractual services.

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In the circumstances, he proposed a reduction of \$104,000 in the estimates as submitted by the Secretary-General (i.e., a reduction of \$66,900 additional to that suggested by the Advisory Committee). At the Committee's 261st meeting, the representative of Egypt moved an amendment to the Pakistan proposal to the effect that the Secretary-General's estimates be reduced by a total of \$90,030

Distributed as follows:

\$55,030 on salaries of internationally recruited personnel,
\$25,000 on local transportation, and
\$10,000 on travel and subsistence of staff.

The representative of Pakistan accepted this amendment to his initial proposal. The opinion was expressed by the representatives of Pakistan and Egypt that the essential purposes of the draft resolution of the Ad Hoc Political Committee and of the earlier resolutions of the General Assembly could be effectively accomplished within the limits of the reduced appropriation recommended.

5. Following a detailed explanation by the United Nations Commissioner of the problems confronting his office and the Council for Libya, a number of delegations stated their belief that an appropriation in the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee would be necessary if the achievement of independence by the target date of 1 January 1952 were not to be prejudiced.

The proposal of the representative of Pakistan, as amended by the representative of Egypt, on being put to the vote, was rejected by 20 votes to 6, with 13 abstentions. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee that, for the purpose of implementing the draft resolution of the Ad Hoc Political Committee, a supplementary provision would be required in 1951 in the amount of \$575,000 (allowing for the transfer of \$7,200 to section 25 of the budget estimates) was then approved unanimously.

7. The Fifth Committee therefore decided to inform the General Assembly that the adoption of the draft resolution of the Ad Hoc Political Committee would require provision to be made in the amount of \$575,000 under section 5 of the budget estimates and of an additional \$7,200 under section 25.
