



Fifth session  
Agenda item 31

## ADVISORY SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Dr. R. NORIEGA (Mexico)

1. As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 316(IV) of 17 November 1949, the Economic and Social Council, at its eleventh session, reviewed the terms of General Assembly resolution 58(I) on advisory social welfare services. In its resolution 312(XI) of 14 July 1950, the Council unanimously recommended to the fifth regular session of the General Assembly certain modifications in the original resolution which it considered necessary and which it embodied in a consolidated revised text.
2. A detailed comparison between resolution 58(I) and the revised draft submitted by the Council was prepared for the General Assembly by the Secretary-General (A/1355).
3. The General Assembly, at its 285th meeting held on 26 September 1950 referred the matter to the Third Committee for consideration and report.
4. The Third Committee devoted three meetings to the consideration of the revised text proposed by the Council (273rd, 274th, and 275th meetings). Of the thirty representatives who took part in the debate, all expressed confidence in the programme of advisory social welfare services as one of the most effective expressions of international co-operation and declared themselves in favour of the Council's recommendations concerning the scope of these services. Several representatives made observations of a technical character on the application of the proposed resolution, with a view to avoiding duplication and overlapping. Some reserved for consideration in the Fifth Committee their delegations' positions regarding the financial estimate submitted to the Council by the Secretary-General (E/1702/Add.1). A few, moreover, abstained from voting on the ground that the sums

appropriated for 1950 should be adequate for developing a somewhat more expanded programme in 1951.

5. The Committee heard various explanations and statements made by representatives of the Secretary-General. A technical explanation was given of the mechanism for consultation with requesting Governments, for collaboration with specialized agencies in meeting requests for services, for combining various advisory services through the method of demonstration centres, for reinforcing and supplementing these various services by means of technical publications and films, and for using regional offices as dynamic centres for effectively meeting local needs. A statement was made concerning the organizational arrangements within the Secretariat for integrating the administration of the advisory social welfare services with that of other aspects of technical assistance, while at the same time assuring continued consultation and co-operation with the substantive Department charged with social welfare questions. The Committee noted with approval that the distinctive characteristics of the advisory social welfare programme are to be fully maintained, in that it is a continuing programme with wide terms of reference, financially supported from the regular contributions of all Member States, for the stimulation of social progress for its own sake and not only as an aspect of economic development, and on behalf of people all over the world and not only of those of under-developed areas. The Committee understood that the advisory social welfare services would continue to be guided by the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of its Social Commission and subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

6. Two amendments, submitted by the delegation of Israel (A/C.3/L.43) and by the delegation of Lebanon (A/C.3/L.42) respectively, to paragraphs B.2 and B.3 of the proposed text, were adopted with a view to clarifying the participation of requesting countries in the selection of experts and in meeting the cost of the services furnished.

7. Lastly, the Committee resolved unanimously to approve the following draft resolution, and, on a roll-call vote (47 in favour to none, with 5 abstentions), to recommend it for adoption by the General Assembly in the following terms:

ADVISORY SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

The General Assembly,

Having considered the modifications made, in the light of General Assembly resolution 316(IV), by the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 58(I) on advisory social welfare services,

Approves the following text of resolution 58(I) revised by the Economic and Social Council and amended by the Third Committee:

"Whereas by Articles 55 and 60 of the Charter of the United Nations the Economic and Social Council, under the authority of the General Assembly, is charged with the responsibility for promoting higher standards of living and conditions of social progress and development,

"Whereas by Article 66 of the Charter, the Economic and Social Council may, with the approval of the General Assembly, perform services at the request of Members of the United Nations and at the request of specialized agencies,

"Whereas the General Assembly, after examining the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and the accompanying report of services rendered for the first three years of operation, approved the recommendations and placed the advisory social welfare services originally authorized by resolution 58(I) on a continuing basis, and requested that a review be made of the terms of that resolution and appropriate recommendations made with respect to desirable or necessary changes (resolution 316(IV),

"Whereas the General Assembly recognizes that the advisory social welfare services constitute a practical operational programme of direct assistance to Governments and that the other activities of the United Nations in the social field should be properly correlated with those services in order to achieve maximum effectiveness, to which end the Social Commission has adjusted its long-range work programme,

"The General Assembly, therefore,

"A. Authorizes the Secretary-General:

"1. Subject to the directions of the Economic and Social

/Council, to make

Council, to make provision for the under-mentioned functions and services, such provision to be made where appropriate with the co-operation of the specialized agencies and in consultation with non-governmental organizations having consultative status:

- "(a) For a requisite number of social welfare experts to provide advisory services at the request of Governments which show the need for them, and to put into practice, over an appropriate period, new methods in any branch of social welfare;
  - "(b) For enabling suitably qualified social welfare officials to observe, and familiarize themselves with, the experience and practice of other countries in any branch of social welfare;
  - "(c) For enabling suitably qualified persons who cannot receive professional training in branches of social welfare in their own country to receive appropriate training in foreign countries having the necessary facilities;
  - "(d) For planning by appropriate methods projects for experimenting in or demonstrating various phases of social welfare, organizing and participating in these projects, providing the necessary tools and equipment in connexion therewith, and associating with the projects to the extent practicable, the persons referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c) above.
  - "(e) For furnishing technical publications and films;
  - "(f) For planning and conducting seminars;
- "2. To include in the budgetary estimates of the United Nations the sums necessary for carrying out an effective operational programme based on the provision of the above services;

/ "B. Instructs the

"B. Instructs the Secretary-General to undertake the performance of the functions listed in paragraph A.1 above, in agreement with the Governments concerned, on the basis of requests received from Governments and in accordance with the following policies:

"1. The kind of service to be rendered to each country shall be decided by the Government concerned;

"2. The furnishing of the experts and services shall be undertaken by the Secretary-General, with due regard to suggestions made by the requesting Governments; the Secretary-General shall, normally, make application for experts to States which are Members of the United Nations. The selection of grant-holders shall be made by the Secretary-General on the basis of proposals received from Governments, which shall indicate their preferences with regard to host countries;

"3. The amount of services and the conditions under which they shall be furnished to the various Governments shall be decided by the Secretary-General with due regard to the greater needs of the under-developed areas and in conformity with the principle that each requesting Government shall be expected to assume responsibility, as far as possible, for all or part of the expenses connected with the services furnished to it, either by making a contribution in cash, or in the form of services for the purposes of the programme being carried out;

"C. Requests the Secretary-General to report regularly to the Social Commission on the measures which he takes in compliance with the terms of the present resolution and requests the Commission to formulate recommendations from time to time, concerning the continued action required to carry on the essential advisory activities in the field of social welfare."