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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1952

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Rafik ASHA (Syria)

1. At its 342nd plenary meeting held on 14 November 1951, the General Assembly decided to refer to the Fifth Committee for consideration and report, the budget estimates of the United Nations for the financial year 1952 as submitted by the Secretary-General and reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. At its 318th meeting on 18 December 1951, the Committee decided to recommend approval of estimates in the total amount of \$48,096,780. As an offset against estimated 1952 expenditure, the Committee approved, at its 319th meeting, an estimate of miscellaneous income of \$6,399,800 which amount will serve to reduce correspondingly the assessment of contributions from Member States to the sixth annual budget. Estimated net expenditure for 1952 will thus amount to \$41,696,980.

2. This amount will be subject to adjustments in accordance with the terms of financial regulation V, paragraph 2, estimated as follows:

(a) Supplementary appropriation for the financial year 1951	\$ 1,126,900
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(b) Adjustment consequent upon over-estimating miscellaneous income for the financial year 1951	638,500
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	<u>\$ 1,765,400</u>
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Less:

(c) Savings during 1951 in liquidating prior years' obligations	1,525,000
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	<u>\$ 1,240,400</u>
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As a result of these adjustments, assessment of contributions from Member States for the financial year 1952 will amount, if appropriations are approved as recommended, to \$42,937,380 as compared with \$42,825,420 for 1951, or an increase of \$111,960.

3. The Committee had before it as basic working documents the budget estimates and information annexes as submitted by the Secretary-General (A/1812, 1812/Add.1) and the second report of 1951 of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/1853).. In the course of its proceedings, and in the light of decisions taken in the meantime by the organs concerned, the Committee also receive revised estimates for Section 1 (The General Assembly, commissions and committees) and Section 3 (The Economic and Social Council, commissions and committees), as well as supplementary reports from both the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on the additional provision necessary in 1952 under Sections 10, 11, 20, 22 and 23 of the budget as a result of resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its thirteenth session. The Committee had before it, in addition, proposals from the Secretary-General for an increase in the size of the Working Capital Fund (A/1988, A/C.5/452) and for the establishment of a cost of living adjustment for United Nations staff at Headquarters (A/C.5/468). Its recommendations with respect to the former question have been embodied in the draft resolution on the Working Capital Fund submitted to the General Assembly for adoption. A decision has yet to be taken, however, on the latter question, provision having been made, in the meantime, on a conditional basis, within the global appropriation proposed under Section 33 of the 1952 budget.

4. Throughout its deliberations, the Committee had the assistance of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions who, in accordance with established practice, was invited to sit with the Committee and to participate in its deliberations.

5. The Committee's 286th, 287th and 288th meetings were devoted to a general debate on the budget as a whole including related administrative, organizational and personnel problems and policies. The attention of the Committee was directed to the written statement which had previously been circulated by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/448) with the object of informing Member Governments, in advance, of his views on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. The Secretary-General, after stressing the importance of securing General Assembly

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approval of at least the bulk of the 1952 estimates prior to the beginning of the new financial year, announced that he would not contest many of the reductions which the Advisory Committee had proposed, even in certain cases where he felt some doubt existed as to the assumptions on which the Advisory Committee's recommendations had been based. He considered, however, that reductions totalling \$2,035,000 would result in too severe a retrenchment since, after allowing for regular salary increments, approximately the same funds would be provided in 1952 as in 1951 despite substantial increases in programmes and costs, particularly in the programmes of the Regional Economic Commissions and the High Commissioner for Refugees, and in the costs of operating and maintaining the new Headquarters buildings - these three items alone accounting for increases in estimated expenditure in 1952 totalling \$2,099,000. The Secretary-General expressed the view also, that in some instances the Advisory Committee's recommendations represented postponement rather than actual reduction, notably for guard services at Headquarters and the maintenance of the Headquarters buildings. He believed that good budget practice required provision to be made for an item when it is reasonably certain that expenditure will be incurred, which he considered to be the case in these instances. Accordingly, maintenance of his estimates as initially presented was requested in the case of the Departments of Economic and Social Affairs, the Regional Economic Commissions, and maintenance services. Reservations were also made by the Secretary-General with respect to reductions proposed in the estimates for other common services and for contractual printing. In the latter case, the Secretary-General stated that, unless specific items were to be eliminated, it would be impossible to manage, having regard to rapidly increasing prices, with an appropriation less than that granted in 1951. With regard to Public Information, the Secretary-General stated that certain of the specific reductions recommended would have the effect of reducing activities substantially below the level which Member Governments had hitherto seen fit to approve. In the case of Information Centres, he concurred fully in the opinion expressed by the Advisory Committee that "reductions of any significance in this section of the budget can be achieved only by a decision of principle to be taken by the General Assembly in respect of the number and geographical distribution of the Centres."

6. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee, in introducing his Committee's report, pointed out that while it was the Committee's aim to reduce the estimates wherever

possible in order to lighten the financial burden on Member States, the recommendations made would, in the Committee's opinion, tend also toward a more efficient use of resources and toward an improvement in existing administrative arrangements. In recommending reductions in the Secretary-General's estimates for the Regional Economic Commissions and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Advisory Committee had principally in mind the consideration that a slower rate of development might prove advisable both on administrative and financial grounds. In the case of the Departments of Economic and Social Affairs, the Committee could not accept the Secretary-General's argument to the effect that, were the original estimates to be approved in full, additional work assigned to those Departments as a result of decisions taken at the thirteenth session of the Council could be absorbed without the submission of supplementary estimates. It appeared to the Committee that the principle enunciated by the Secretary-General would tend towards a weakening of the whole process under which the financial implications of proposals should be presented as clearly and as precisely as possible to the Council; and further that under such a procedure, the justification for the Secretary-General's original budget estimates and for staffing requirements would be rendered meaningless. With reference to the question of Headquarters maintenance, the Advisory Committee believed that, since these estimates were still of a tentative nature, any deficiencies that might arise in the relevant appropriations should be covered by the submission of supplementary estimates during 1952, the Secretary-General being asked meanwhile to maintain such expenditure under constant surveillance. The committee concurred wholeheartedly in the view that good budget practice requires provision to be made for expenditures that are reasonably certain to be incurred. Such did not, however, appear to be the case insofar as estimates for Headquarters maintenance and guard services were concerned. The Advisory Committee had been fully conscious in framing its recommendations of the Secretary-General's difficult task and its efforts had been constantly directed toward strengthening his position. Care had been exercised not to criticize programmes as such although the Committee did view with very grave concern the growing proliferation of activities.

7. The general discussion which followed reflected the preoccupation of many Delegations with the increasing cost of international organizations and the necessity of insuring strict economy in the utilization of the budgetary resources placed at their disposal. Although the fact was acknowledged that the budget as submitted by the Secretary-General for 1952 showed some reduction

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below the level approved for 1951, this decrease was stated to be largely due to the elimination of various non-recurring items of expenditure. The view was widely shared moreover that the savings recommended by the Advisory Committee could be achieved without detriment to any essential activity or service through better organization of the work of the Secretariat, greater efficiency and versatility on the part of its staff combined with an assurance of reasonable security of tenure, and above all, the elimination of low priority and proliferal activities, particularly in the economic and social fields.

8. A number of Delegations expressed satisfaction at the apparent trend toward stabilization of the Organization's regular expenditure, although others sounded a note of caution lest over-emphasis on stabilization should lead to unduly rigid patterns of expenditure and the continuance of activities and programmes which no longer served an urgent or essential purpose. The view was also expressed that whilst normal expenditure for staff and meeting services should be permanently stabilized at its present level, the special responsibilities of the United Nations in the political field constituted a sufficiently strong reason for not seeking to limit requests which might come from the General Assembly in this connexion. Many delegations also placed very great emphasis on the need for avoiding arbitrary reductions in expenditure for economic and social activities and, in particular, on programmes relating directly or indirectly to economic development of under-developed areas. Such programmes, it was maintained, should be afforded the highest priority and prosecuted with full vigour. Considerations of economy should not, therefore, be permitted to impede or retard the work which the United Nations is now carrying out for the promotion of economic and social advancement.

9. Certain delegations reaffirmed the view previously expressed in meetings of the Fifth Committee that the objective should be to operate within a pre-determined budget ceiling - a figure of \$35,000,000 being specifically suggested as an appropriate target. They believed that by stringent economy and the elimination of non-essential activities and services, the budget for 1952 could be reduced to this figure without in any way prejudicing the Organization's ability to play an active role in the maintenance of international peace and security.

10. Other delegations, whilst fully supporting the work of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, particularly in the economic and social fields, were apprehensive that too much was now being attempted too fast. They felt that if the delicate machinery of international cooperation were submitted to undue stress

at this stage it might be damaged beyond repair and that the rapidity with which staff and programmes had expanded within the past few years, including the expansion due to Technical Assistance, had perhaps been more rapid than was compatible with the careful selection of personnel and planning of new projects. Furthermore the very considerable expansion that had occurred in operational programmes should, in the opinion of some delegations, have been accompanied by a reduction in expenditure of regular activities.

11. The question of priorities was the subject of repeated comment. It was the consensus of opinion that in spite of some progress in this matter, existing policies and procedures required to be more clearly defined and greatly strengthened before Member Governments could feel sure that funds allocated were being utilized to the best possible advantage. In particular, decisions concerning new activities or the expansion of existing activities should only be undertaken after the most searching investigation and at the same time the General Assembly, Councils and Commissions should adhere strictly to the criteria adopted by the General Assembly in 1950. A number of delegations stressed the desirability of the Fifth Committee re-examining from time to time from the administrative and budgetary standpoint activities of long standing, with a view to deciding whether they should be continued, curtailed or eliminated. In this connexion the view was expressed that while the responsibility for arresting the current tendency toward proliferation of activities rests in the first instance upon Member Governments themselves, the Secretary-General was in a special position to advise the Councils and the General Assembly on the urgency and priority of projects proposed by Member States or by specialized Agencies. The hope was expressed, therefore, that the Secretary-General would bear this responsibility always in mind and display all possible zeal in discharging it. For their part Member Governments should equally bear in mind that the only effective solution of the problem of priorities was constantly to exercise a strict selection of activities according to their immediate value. In the case of an organization such as the United Nations, the opportunities for useful action were virtually without limit. This, however, did not apply to the resources of Member Governments. Unless, therefore, the Organization exercised moderation in all its decisions, financial as well as political, it could not maintain that wide measure of public support which was indispensable to the success of its work.

12. During the general discussion and subsequently when the estimates for the Departments of Economic and Social Affairs and the Technical Assistance Administration were under consideration, attention was directed by several delegations to the need for early review of the organization of the Secretariat. The Representatives of Norway and Denmark, in particular, expressed the view that the number of top-level posts, notably the number of Assistant Secretaries General, was excessive and the suggestion was made that in the interests of efficiency, no less than of economy, it would be desirable to undertake a thorough re-organization of the departmental structure of the Secretariat in the light of the experience gained since 1945 when the present plan of organization had been drawn up by the Preparatory Commission. If maximum efficiency was to be obtained, the Committee should not proceed on the assumption that an instrument which was improvised six years ago was necessarily best suited to the changed circumstances that now prevail.

13. The representative of Egypt supported by many members of the Committee, stressed particularly the need for more clearly defining the respective functions and responsibilities of the Departments of Economic and Social Affairs and of the Technical Assistance Administration and proposed that the possibility of either strengthening the Technical Assistance Administration or merging these Departments into a single unit should be examined.

14. At the Committee's 294th meeting, it was stated, on behalf of the Secretary-General that he had given much thought since the last session to the question of re-organization of the Secretariat. In his opinion, however, any considerable re-organization in the specific fields of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Technical Assistance would have important consequences on other departments and activities. These fields, moreover, and notably that of Technical Assistance, involved the interest and activities of the specialized agencies as well as both certain political considerations. Accordingly, he believed that it would be premature and impracticable to deal with the re-organization of Economic and Social Affairs and of Technical Assistance at the Sixth session of the General Assembly and in isolation from other problems. If the Fifth Committee desired this question to be dealt with, the Secretary-General would propose that he prepare a study of the desirability of a general Secretariat re-organization for submission to the next session of the Assembly, through the Advisory Committee.

15. In the light of observations made by several delegations, and of the statement presented on behalf of the Secretary-General, the Delegate of Egypt submitted the following revised proposal as a recommendation of the Fifth Committee:

That

1. Having regard to the repeated observations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions concerning the relationships between the Technical Assistance Administration and the Departments of Economic Affairs and of Social Affairs;
 2. Noting the views expressed by the Advisory Committee relating to the nature of the over-complex technical machinery which has been established within the Secretariat for the co-ordination of the above-mentioned units, and the organizational disadvantages of the present arrangements;
 3. Noting the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/L.111) on the existing administrative arrangements between the above three departmental units, and having regard to the desirability of a possible revision of such arrangements, which cannot usefully be studied in isolation from other related problems;
 4. The Secretary-General be requested to review the whole structure and functions of the three Departments of the Secretariat, as well as the system of co-ordination between them, within the context of a wider re-organization referred to in the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/L.111), and to submit through the Advisory Committee his recommendations, together with the comments of the Advisory Committee to the General Assembly at its Seventh Regular Session.
16. The Secretary-General having indicated that he had no objection to the Egyptian recommendation as revised, the Fifth Committee agreed unanimously that it be incorporated in its report to the General Assembly.
17. A further question involving administrative organization to which special attention was called by several delegations in the course of the Committee's general debate, concerned the composition, strength and terms of reference of the various United Nations political missions now operating in various parts of the world. Some delegations were of the opinion that certain of these missions had long since outlived their usefulness, that in other cases their terms of reference were too broad and that, in general, the level of expenditure involved could be substantially reduced. It was suggested also that efficiency might be increased by keeping the number of governmental representatives on such missions and on other subordinate bodies to a minimum and by assuring that such representatives

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were adequately briefed on the General Assembly's administrative and financial policies.

18. There was recurrent reference to the importance of improving still further the quality of the Secretariat, coupled with the necessity of assuring a greater measure of security to members than is possible under existing contractual arrangements. While many delegations called attention to the fact that high efficiency and integrity could not be assured unless the staff were at the same time guaranteed a minimum of security, safety and stability in their employment, others felt that the first task to be undertaken by the Secretary-General was to reduce to a minimum the proportion of those staff members who did not measure up to the high standards demanded by the Charter. It was generally considered that difficulties which existed were due at least in part to the lack of permanent staff regulations defining clearly the rights, duties and obligations of secretariat officials and the hope was expressed that this would be remedied in the course of the present session.

19. Among major items of staff expenditures, the cost of official travel was frequently singled out as an item which should be watched much more carefully in the future than has been the case in the past. It was the feeling of most members of the Committee that the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee should pay particular attention to such expenditures during the coming year.

20. The Committee began a more detailed first reading of the budget estimates at its 238th meeting, after deciding to follow its customary procedure of using the reports and recommendations of the Advisory Committee as a basis for its decisions. During the following thirty meetings, the Advisory Committee's recommendations, together with proposals for reductions or increases in the amounts to be appropriated, were discussed and voted on.

21. In the course of a second reading of the estimates at the Committee's 318th meeting, the amounts for each section of the budget as approved at first reading were confirmed in all instances with the exception of Section 20.

22. This report is not intended to be an exhaustive review of the Committee's budget discussions, a more detailed summary of which, including the points of view expressed by individual delegations, is contained in the official records. Its purpose is to provide a synopsis of the main points emerging from the Committee's discussion of the budget proposals for the financial year 1952.

Section 1. The General Assembly, Commissions and Committees

The Committee considered the estimates for Section 1 at its 288th meeting. In its report (A/1853), the Advisory Committee had recommended that the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General for this Section be reduced by an aggregate amount of \$45,500; providing for a session of the General Assembly (Chapter I) of 10 weeks and a session of the International Law Commission (Chapter IV) of 11 weeks duration. The total thus recommended for the Section was \$625,000, which figure had been accepted by the Secretary-General. The Committee, at its first reading, approved a budgetary provision of \$59,100 for the 1952 session of the International Law Commission by 36 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions, and unanimously approved the provision of \$625,000 as recommended by the Advisory Committee for the Section as a whole.

The Secretary-General submitted supplementary estimates (A/C.5/469) for the expenditures of the sixth session of the General Assembly in 1952 in a total of \$776,500. These expenditures are compensated by savings effected on the 1951 appropriations. The committee approved these estimates and confirmed a total appropriation for this section in the sum of \$1,401,500.

Section 2. The Security Council, Commissions and Committees

The Committee noted at its 288th meeting that no provision was requested in Section 2, although expenditure for printing of the Council's records would be considered under Section 25. The Secretary-General had proposed the maintenance of Section 2 in the budget document because of the possibility of the Security Council's holding a session away from Headquarters. This Section was approved without discussion.

Section 3. The Economic and Social Council, Commissions and Committees

At its 303rd meeting, the Committee considered the budgetary provision to be made for meetings of the Economic and Social Council, its Commissions and Committees.

The Committee's discussion was based on the Tenth Report of 1951 (A/1981) of the Advisory Committee following a review of the revised estimates (A/C.5/451) which the Secretary-General had submitted in the light of Resolution 414(XIII) adopted by the Economic and Social Council after consideration at its thirteenth session, of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Organization and Operation of the Council and its Commissions. The Secretary-General had requested an appropriation of \$139,800 for Section 3, which represented a reduction of \$44,900 on his original estimates. The Advisory Committee had recommended that this

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revised figure be reduced by \$9,500 to a total of \$130,300 for the Section, the specific reduction applying to a provision for temporary assistance required for the Geneva session of the Commission on Status of Women. The Advisory Committee did not doubt the need for some temporary assistance for the purpose concerned, but considered that the total funds appropriated for Section 20 (United Nations Office at Geneva) would be sufficient. The Secretary-General accepted this reduction. Accordingly, at its first reading, the Committee approved an appropriation of \$130,300 for Section 3, by 35 votes to none, with 1 abstention, subject to the decision of principle which the General Assembly might adopt in the consideration of the Council's resolution 414 (XIII) which proposed the abolition of certain of the Council's Commissions and Sub-Commissions.

The Committee confirmed this sum on second reading by 41 votes to none, with 5 abstentions, after a vote had been requested by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in view of the fact that his delegation had opposed the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on Forced Labour and objected to the provision of any funds therefor.

Section 3a. Permanent Central Opium Board and Drugs Supervisory Body

The estimates in the amount of \$16,000 as recommended by the Advisory Committee for the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body were unanimously approved by the Committee at its 288th meeting.

This amount was \$8,500 below the original estimate. The representative of Norway considered that the principle should be to vote estimates on the assumption of a full attendance of membership at all sessions. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee explained, however, that the recommendation involved no restriction of the activities of the organs concerned. It was based on the actual expenditures of 1949 and 1950, and since the funds appropriated under this Section were combined with those appropriated under Chapter III of Section 20, relating to the Secretariat of these organs, there was flexibility in meeting actual expenses from a unit appropriation; amounts not entered in the estimates could not be assessed and the burden on governments would be correspondingly less.

Section 3b. Regional Economic Commission

At its 288th meeting, the Committee considered and unanimously approved the recommendation of the Advisory Committee to appropriate \$50,300 for this Section. A number of representatives considered that the Secretary-General should consult with the Advisory Committee in order to formulate by the next regular session of the Assembly a uniform policy regarding the arrangements for sessions of regional economic commissions, referring particularly to the question of payment of additional costs for meetings held away from the headquarters of the commissions.

Section 4. Trusteeship Council, Commission and Committees

At its 303rd meeting the Committee considered and adopted the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$50,000 for this Section. This decision was taken on the understanding that the Secretary-General would submit revised estimates to the Advisory Committee should the sum prove insufficient for the 1952 Visiting Mission after the itinerary and terms of reference have been approved by the Trusteeship Council.

Section 5 and 5a - Investigations and Inquiries and the United Nations Field Service

It was not possible for the Committee to review detailed estimates for investigations and inquiries and for the United Nations Field Service. As a provisional measure, the Committee approved the creation of a new section in the budget Part XII (Section 33) to which reference should be made regarding the particular appropriation which would normally be included within these two sections.

Section 6 - Executive Office of the Secretary-General

During the discussion of the estimates for the Executive Office of the Secretary-General at its 289th meeting the Committee considered the question of an increase of \$2,000 in the representation allowance for the Executive Assistant of the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee had recommended against this increase since the General Assembly, in adopting the salary and allowance scale for staff members (Resolution 470 (V)) had fixed the maximum representation allowance for a Principal Director at \$3,500. While some members felt unable to endorse a proposal varying the scale, others considered that the special duties of this post justified the increase. Noting the assurance of the Secretary-General that this case would not be used as a

precedent the proposal to increase the representation allowance of the Executive Assistant was adopted by 30 votes to 8, with 4 abstentions. The Committee rejected a proposal by the representatives of Burma to reduce by \$10,000 below the sum recommended by the Advisory Committee for official travel for this office, and approved by 37 votes to none, with 8 abstentions an appropriation of \$465,700 for the Section, account also being taken of the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 87 of the Second Report of 1951 concerning official travel.

Section 6a - Library

At its 288th meeting, the Committee discussed the estimates for the Library. Several delegations considered that the staff of the Library seemed unduly large, taking into consideration the numbers of staff in the libraries of various capital cities. They hoped that the Secretary-General would see his way clear, after the initial work of cataloguing and indexing was completed, to make some reduction in the present number of Library staff.

The representative of the Netherlands called attention to the opinion expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 93 of its second report of 1951, and endorsed the view that the branch libraries should not be continued.

The Committee approved the estimate for the Library recommended by the Advisory Committee in the amount of \$440,000.

Section 7 - Department of Security Council Affairs

At its 288th meeting, the Committee approved unanimously the estimate, as recommended by the Advisory Committee, for the Department of Security Council Affairs, in the amount of \$743,800, noting specifically the comments in paragraph 102 of the Advisory Committee's second report for 1951 regarding possible economies in the 1953 estimates.

Section 8 - Military Staff Committee

The Committee considered the estimates for Section 8 - Military Staff Committee Secretariat at its 289th and 296th meetings. Apart from the question of the appropriation requirement for the Section, the Committee also discussed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 107 of its second report of 1951 regarding the use of the staff in this secretariat.

The Representative of the Union of South Africa, in addition to endorsing the Advisory Committee's recommendation, called attention to the fact that a number of previously authorized posts had been vacant during 1951 and for some time previously; he did not propose the abolition of these posts, but since it was reasonably certain that they would not be filled during 1952 he proposed a reduction of \$25,000 below the sum recommended by the Advisory Committee on the grounds that it was inappropriate to approve an appropriation which it was reasonably certain would not be used. Several representatives were of the opinion that savings on unfilled posts should not be dealt with piecemeal by reducing the estimates in individual Sections. The proper procedure was the present one by which such savings effected by the turnover of staff, were dealt with in a uniform manner throughout the budget. It was also pointed out that the Military Staff Committee had been instituted by the Charter and while keeping the question of the size of its Secretariat continually under review, care should be exercised to avoid prejudging political issues by financial decisions.

The Advisory Committee had recommended in paragraph 107 of its report that since, in existing circumstances, clerical staff of this Secretariat would not be fully employed by the Military Staff Committee it should be employed elsewhere in the Secretariat while retaining its separate identity. The existence of vacant posts in this particular instance did not give rise to any difficulty; the posts would not be filled except in case of need and so long as they remained unfilled no unnecessary expenditure would be involved.

The Committee, having rejected by 20 votes to 8, with 8 abstentions, the proposal of the representative of the Union of South Africa for a further reduction of \$25,000 approved the estimates for Section 8 at the

figure of \$131,200 as recommended by the Advisory Committee, by 38 votes to none, with 2 abstentions, and at the same time concurred in the specific recommendations in paragraph 107 of the Advisory Committee's report.

Sections 9, 27, 28, 29. - Technical Assistance Administration, Advisory Social Welfare Services, Technical Assistance for Economic Development and Programme for training in Public Administration

The discussion in the Committee, at its 294th and 295th meetings on the Technical Assistance activities of the United Nations covered two separate but related points: - the review of the estimates themselves, and the organizational problems raised in the inter-relationship between the Technical Assistance Administration and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The latter question is covered in the introduction to this report; this section is confined to certain administrative points affecting the estimates to which the discussion in the Committee gave rise.

It was stressed by a number of representatives that the text in the budget document supporting these particular activities should be written up as factually and completely as circumstances permitted. It was only in this way that the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee would be able to exercise the financial control of expenditures which these important activities necessitated.

A number of representatives also wished to have as much detail as possible on the total of administrative expenditures of these activities and they considered that these should be set out as concisely as possible. The representative of the United States considered that the estimates presented in the future should also give an analysis of the funds expended through the United Nations allocation from voluntary contribution in the Special Account.

Particular emphasis was laid by a number of representatives on the need for the Administration to exercise very careful control of the expenditures for official travel as there appeared to be many examples of unnecessary travel by members of the Organizations participating in the Technical Assistance programme, which could be avoided with better coordination of activities.

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The Representative of Canada stressed the fact that it was vitally important that the experts recommended by the Secretariat and the fellows and scholars selected for training should be of the highest calibre; the improvement which had been made during the past year in the recruiting processes for Technical Assistance and in the matter of selection of suitable fellows and scholars was explained to the Committee by the Director General of the Technical Assistance Administration.

Some representatives were disappointed that the expedient of setting up a reserve fund of over \$3,000,000 for the expanded programme of technical assistance had had to be adopted, and thought that an enquiry should be carried out to ensure that the Administration's work was successful. They considered that there should be a more practical financial control of funds, and the Advisory Committee should be requested to make a study of this point.

Further, the Secretary-General should frankly tell the Fifth Committee whether he considered that the technical assistance programme was satisfactory from the budgetary point of view, and also keep the Committee informed on the geographical distribution observed in recruiting experts and staff for the Technical Assistance Administration.

At its 295th meeting, the Committee approved unanimously the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee viz \$300,000 for section 9; \$768,500 for section 27; \$479,400 for section 28 and \$145,000 for section 29.

Section 10. Department of Economic Affairs

1. The estimates for the Department of Economic Affairs were examined by the Fifth Committee in first reading at its 290th and 291st meetings.
2. In view of the fact that the Economic and Social Council had agreed at its thirteenth session to defer the completion of certain studies (estimated at \$122,000) on full employment, the figure recommended by the Advisory Committee for Section 10 - \$2,117,200 - represented an effective reduction of \$74,700 by comparison with the Secretary-General's original estimate of \$2,191,900.

3. The Secretary-General reported to the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/448, paragraphs 12; A/C.5/451, paragraphs 9-10) that, since the Economic and Social Council at its thirteenth session had charged the Department with a number of additional tasks requiring the engagement of consultants and temporary assistance, he proposed, in the interest of simplicity, that, in lieu of the submission of supplementary estimates to cover the cost of new tasks, his original estimate (\$2,191,900) should be recommended to the General Assembly for approval in full.
4. In the course of discussion, a majority of the representatives, while recognizing that the Secretary-General's proposal represented an attempt at stabilization of expenses, concurred in the views expressed by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the effect that funds required for additional activities should be covered by supplementary estimates; only in that way would the Fifth Committee be enabled to make a detailed assessment of the importance and extent of such activities.
5. As an alternative proposal, the representative of Australia suggested that the Committee, while adhering in principle to the budgetary procedure outlined by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, might, without detailed examination of supplementary estimates, recommend the figure proposed by the Secretary-General for the 1952 programme of the Department, with a possible reduction on the item for official travel.
6. The representative of the Netherlands moved that, as a matter of principle, supplementary estimates arising out of resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its thirteenth session should be prepared in detail, for examination by the Fifth Committee on the basis of a report from the Advisory Committee. After the rejection of a Lebanese amendment to the effect that Section 10 should be re-examined as a whole by the Advisory Committee in the

light of the additional work-load arising out of the Council's thirteenth session, the Fifth Committee adopted, by 40 votes to none, with 2 abstentions, the Netherlands proposal.

7. The representative of Burma proposed that the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee (\$20,000) in the item for official travel should be increased to \$30,000. The Fifth Committee, however, having heard a statement from the representative of the Secretary-General who argued that even a decrease of \$20,000 rendered problematical the adequate performance of departmental duties, rejected the Burmese proposal, took note of the assurance by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that, if need arose, sympathetic consideration would be given to a request for the transfer of funds to cover any deficit on the item for travel on official business, and by 41 votes to 1, with no abstentions, approved the estimates for Section 10 as recommended by the Advisory Committee at the figure of \$2,117,200.

8. Supplementary estimates (A/C.5/465) to an amount of \$58,300 were submitted by the Secretary-General in respect of the Council resolutions referred to in paragraph 6 above. These estimates were examined by the Advisory Committee, which recommended (A/1999) that, in view of the economy likely to result from the temporary discontinuance or deferment of sessions of functional commissions serviced by the Department, and in view also of possible further savings on the items for consultants and official travel, the proposed additional provision should be limited to \$50,000.

9. The Fifth Committee, at its 317th meeting, concurred in the above recommendation of the Advisory Committee, and at its 318th meeting, in the course of the second reading of the budget estimates, unanimously approved a total appropriation for Section 10 of \$2,167,200.

Section 11, Department of Social Affairs

The estimates for the Department of Social Affairs were reviewed by the Committee in its first reading at its 292nd and 293rd meetings.

The sum recommended by the Advisory Committee for this section, \$1,550,000, represented a reduction of \$107,500 by comparison with the Secretary-General's original estimate of \$1,657,500.

The Economic and Social Council at its 13th session had laid additional tasks upon the department and as was the case with the Department of Economic Affairs, the Secretary-General had advised the Council that he would undertake these tasks without requesting an additional appropriation on the understanding that his original estimate was approved in full by the General Assembly.

The Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Social Affairs pointed out that the sum recommended by the Advisory Committee was \$51,750 below the appropriation approved for 1951; if the normal within-grade increments amounting to some \$45,000 were also taken into account then the reduction proposed for 1952 would mean the elimination of a number of existing posts and would compel revision of the work programme involving some disorganization of the service.

In the course of the discussion a majority of the representatives, however, while recognizing that as was similarly the case in the Department of Economic Affairs, the Secretary-General's proposals represented an attempt at stabilization of expenditure, concurred in the views expressed by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that any funds required for additional activities should be covered by supplementary estimates, and that the Committee should examine these estimates in the light of the Advisory Committee's recommendations. These recommendations did not take into consideration the additional tasks arising from the 13th session of the Economic and Social Council but if the normal practice were followed that element could be separately assessed by the Committee, and this would be in accordance with the soundest financial principles.

Some representatives considered that the Committee had before it already sufficient elements to take a decision upon this department's budget without delay, and in view of the importance of the work of the department were in principle opposed to any reduction in its existing strength although they recognized that since the potential tasks were so vast some selection in activities was essential. The Secretariat could use its discretion and achieve

/economies

economies particularly by exercising judgment as to the rate at which certain of the programmes were to be carried out. The representative of the Netherlands proposed that the Committee should approach the question on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the original estimates and defer consideration of the amount required for additional work arising from the 13th session of the Council until relevant items had been examined by the Advisory Committee. The Committee adopted this proposal by 27 votes to 20 with 4 abstentions.

The Committee rejected a Brazilian proposal that the estimates be approved at the level of expenditure approved for 1951 plus a provision for annual increments, i.e. a total of \$1,646,750 by 21 votes to 25 with 5 abstentions, and rejected also a French proposal that the estimates be approved at a total of \$1,600,000, i.e. \$50,000 above the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee. In both of these proposals it was understood that expenditures arising from new tasks laid upon the Secretariat by the 13th session of the Council would be absorbed within the totals. The Committee then approved the estimate of \$1,550,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee by 34 votes to 3 with 11 abstentions.

Supplementary estimates (A/C.5/471) in the amount of \$68,200 were submitted by the Secretary-General in respect of the Council's resolutions referred to above. These were examined by the Advisory Committee which recommended (A/2008) that in view of economies likely to arise from the deferment or discontinuance of two of the functional commissions serviced by the Department, and in view of the possibility of charging certain of the expenditures relating to an appraisal of the first five years of the Advisory Social Welfare Services to the appropriation voted in Section 27 or to the Special Account, the proposed additional revision should be limited to \$55,000. The Fifth Committee at its 317th meeting concurred in the above recommendation and at its 318th meeting in the course of the 2nd reading approved a total appropriation for section 11 of \$1,605,000 by 41 votes to none with 6 abstentions.

Section 12. Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories

Estimates for the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories were considered by the Committee at its 295th meeting.

In the course of the discussion the representative of Cuba expressed concern lest the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee, although relatively small, might nevertheless affect adversely the programme of work laid upon the Department, particularly by the Special Committee appointed under Article 73(e) of the Charter. He pointed out that the Department had requested the establishment of 3 posts to perform duties which it had for some while been carrying out by staff members temporarily assigned, and the purpose of the Secretary-General's original estimate had been to regularize an existing situation.

The representative of Egypt considered that the needs of the Department could be partially met by inter-departmental transfer and proposed that 2 posts mentioned in paragraphs 155 and 156 of the second report of the Advisory Committee should be filled in this way.

The representative of Australia felt that such an action would create a precedent, for previously the Committee had refrained from taking this type of action which was better left to the Secretary-General and to the Advisory Committee.

The Chairman of the Advisory Committee recalled that the Special Committee on Information Transmitted under Article 73(e) of the Charter had assigned new tasks to the Department, but since the Secretary-General had not contested the small reduction proposed by the Advisory Committee he seemed to have thought that the Department would be able to undertake these additional assignments within the total recommended by the Advisory Committee.

The Assistant Secretary-General reviewed briefly the recommendations by the Trusteeship Council on new programmes of work and noted that under the Council's resolution 311 (VIII) a mission that had visited East Africa in 1951 would include in a report, shortly to be published, recommendations that would entail an increase in the work of the Department.

The representative of India, who was supported by other Members of the Committee, considered that the proper course was to vote the estimates on existing assignments in the amount as recommended by the Advisory Committee and leave it to the Secretary-General to submit supplementary estimates when he

deemed it necessary. This was the procedure which had been followed when dealing with other sections of the budget. The Committee approved an appropriation for this Department in the amount of \$875,000, it being understood that the Secretary-General, if he considered it necessary, would submit supplementary estimates to cover the execution of any new assignments allotted to the Department.

Section 13, 20, 21 and 26

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION GENEVA, INFORMATION
CENTRE, THE INFORMATION CENTRES, AND PUBLICATIONS FOR
INFORMATION PURPOSES

The Committee at its 297 - 302 meetings inclusive considered the estimates for Public Information activities which are included in the following sections of the budget:

Section 13, Department of Public Information

Section 20, Chapter II, Information Services at Geneva

Section 21, Information Centres

Section 26, Chapter I, VII, Publications of the Department
of Public Information

A number of delegations expressed the view that, as a consequence of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its fifth session in respect of public information activities, a lower figure should have been proposed by the Secretary-General for the departmental expenditure in 1952. It was also noted that the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the Secretary-General's estimates were based on the assumption that existing activities and services would be kept during 1952 at approximately their 1951 level and that the Advisory Committee had expressed the view that further economies could be achieved only if a redefinition of United Nations policies as regards public information were undertaken by the General Assembly.

The representative of Syria, who opened the general discussion on these estimates, expressed the opinion, subsequently endorsed by a large number of Delegates who followed, that the Department of Public Information had not fully appreciated the significance of the Australian resolution adopted in the Fifth Committee during the Fifth Session and was continuing to carry out an altogether too ambitious programme. He considered that a thorough reorganization of the Department was overdue and reminded the Committee of the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee on Information concerning the policies, functions
/and organization

and organization of the Department which the General Assembly had endorsed at its first session. This specified that the Department should not indulge in propaganda and that its work should supplement rather than duplicate the services of existing information agencies to the extent that those services were insufficient to realize the purposes set forth in the resolution.

The representative of Canada urged that the Department should voluntarily undertake on the basis of the general views expressed to bring forth proposals for very substantial economies without any formal directive from the General Assembly. These economies should be based on a system of priorities which in turn should be based primarily on the effectiveness of the various information activities and programmes currently undertaken.

The representative of Australia pointed out that direct and indirect expenditures on information amounted to \$5,500,000, or a sum equivalent to the entire budget of the Food and Agriculture Organization. He considered that the discrepancy between the expenditures devoted to Economic and Social Affairs on the one hand, and to information activities, on the other, indicated a serious lack of balance in the utilization of the Organization's total resources. It was essential, therefore, that the General Assembly give clear instructions to the Secretary-General and to the Advisory Committee as to what Member Governments desired by way of information services and that, having given such instructions, it should accept full responsibility for them.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, supported by other Delegations, called attention to the fact that almost 12% of the Organization's resources were currently being devoted to information activities, which seemed all together disproportionate. Referring specifically to the United Nations Bulletin, he maintained that this publication reflected a serious lack of objectivity and balance in its presentation of various national points of view on political and other questions facing the United Nations. In the opinion of his Delegation, more substantial economies than those proposed by the Advisory Committee could be achieved without impairing essential useful and necessary services.

Several delegations, while of the opinion that expectations had not been adequately fulfilled, felt that it would be unwise to proceed further in the direction of economy in 1952 than had been recommended by the Advisory Committee.

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There was urgent need for thorough review of the structure and functions of the Department, including the number and distribution of Information Centres, with a view to appropriate action when preparing the budget for 1953, as a result of which larger savings than those presently recommended should be realized.

A number of delegations expressed themselves emphatically against any curtailment in the activities of this Department.

The representative of the Philippines, whose views were shared by a number of other delegations, urged that the General Assembly should confirm the directives laid down in 1946 in order that the Department of Public Information might make rational long-term plans - something it was quite unable to do if kept from year to year under threat of drastic budgetary retrenchment. In stressing the part which United Nations Information Services are playing in disseminating objective information throughout those parts of the world where national information media is sadly inadequate, he proposed that such services should be maintained, and where possible, expanded within the existing budgetary framework.

The representative of Uruguay stated that the estimates for these Sections should be examined in the light of the services which the Department was called upon to provide. In practice, the existing services were inadequate to meet the needs of the peoples who had the right to be fully informed about the United Nations. He believed that the Committee ought to decide first on the quality and extent of the services to be provided and then on that basis to consider the budgetary requirements. The Committee was not entitled to fix an arbitrary figure for expenditure without first considering countries' needs in all the various types of information media. That fact, together with the acknowledged inadequacy of the present services, should restrain the Committee from allowing further cuts in appropriations to services of such vital importance to all the peoples of the world.

The representative of Ecuador considered that at the present time the need for dissemination of accurate, impartial and concrete information on United Nations activities was particularly necessary. The national and private news agencies should be supplemented by an impartial news service on United Nations activities. Having regard to their importance to the peoples of the world, the public information services of the United Nations should be allotted the funds which the Secretary-General and his technical advisers considered necessary so that the political, social, economic and cultural activities of the Organization could

/be given

be given full publicity to ensure that none of their effect was lost through ignorance or misunderstanding.

The representative of Cuba stated that the United Nations had been right in collaborating closely with public opinion in the countries of Member States and providing factors to enable the peoples to form a judgment on the questions before the Organization. His country was highly satisfied with the information distributed there by the United Nations; the Bulletin in particular had, from the outset, been found to be a valuable source of information by the Government, journalists, broadcasting stations and others interested in the activities of the Organization. He hoped, therefore, that the Bulletin would continue to be published and might even be enlarged. He considered it would be regrettable if for the sake of small savings essential sources of information were destroyed, and he thought that the Committee should be as fully informed as possible of the offset which the proposed reduction in the appropriations for this Department would have on the services it conducts.

The representative of Yugoslavia stated that he was very anxious that economies should be made but he could not support any reduction of appropriations likely to impair the most useful activities of the United Nations, which included the work of this Department. The activities of the Organization were constantly expanding; the fact that the Department of Public Information did not request any extension of its operations showed that the Secretary-General had taken into account in his estimates the recommendations made in previous years by the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee.

The representative from Israel voiced concern at the situation existing in connexion with the operation of the Cairo Information Centre which, because of its location, was prevented from servicing his country.

A number of delegations stressed the need for strengthening certain features of the Department's activities, notably in connexion with radio broadcasts in non-official languages and the work of information centres

servicing the under-developed areas. The necessity of establishing priorities and of redefining the principles and policy directives that should guide the Secretary-General in organization and implementation of the United Nations information programme was constantly reiterated.

In this connexion, attention was called to the fact that both the Advisory Committee in its second report of 1951 (A/1853) and the Secretary-General in his statement to the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/448) had requested that a clear indication of the scope and extent of the services which Member Governments desired to have performed should be given by the General Assembly in the course of its sixth session.

After an extended general discussion on the activities of the Department and having in mind the requests of the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General, the Syrian representative submitted a draft proposal for the creation of a sub-committee to review the principles underlying the work of the Department of Public Information.

A similar proposal was presented by the representative of the Philippines. The Philippines resolution, however, proposed the appointment of a special committee which would review the policies, functions and organization of the Department of Public Information, including the establishment of priorities in media and regional services, with the understanding that the special committee would meet at the permanent Headquarters and submit its report to the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee in time for consideration in connexion with the preparation and review of the budget estimates for public information in 1953.

At its 302nd meeting, the Committee approved, by a vote of 31 in favour, 20 against, with 3 abstentions, the Syrian resolution in the following terms:

The Fifth Committee

Having considered the reports from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the review requested by the Fifth General Assembly of public information activities and expenditures, and the Committee's recommendations for appropriations in 1952 for public information purposes,

Recalling recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee on informations adopted by the General Assembly in 1946 for the information and considerations of the Secretary General and the discussions of the budgetary implications of information policy held during later sessions of the General Assembly,

Noting the views of members as expressed during the discussion of the budget estimates at the Fifth and Sixth Sessions of the General Assembly,

Noting the assurance given by the Secretary-General with regard to the degree of economy and efficiency achieved in the present operations of the Department of Public Information and the Information Centres,

Requests the Secretary-General to maintain and where possible increase the degree of economy and efficiency in the planning of future operations and in future budget estimates for public information purposes,

Recommends appropriations in 1952 under sections 13, 20 (Chapter II), 21, and 26 (Chapter I Item vii) of the budget in the total amount recommended for these sections by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, with the understanding that the Secretary-General may in 1952 make transfers between these sections with a view to the most effective concentration on essential public information services,

Decides to appoint a Sub-Committee of eleven members to be nominated by the Chairman of the Fifth Committee to review the principles underlying the work of the Department of Public Information including the Information Centres and to make recommendations to the Fifth Committee for adoption by the General Assembly by which the Secretary-General shall be guided in framing the budget estimates for 1953.

The Committee rejected, at the same meeting, by a vote of 6 in favour, 22 against and 26 abstentions, an amendment to the above resolution which would have had the effect of making it possible to revise the 1952 estimates for public

information services in light of the recommendations to be submitted by the sub-committee.

At its 304th meeting the Chairman nominated the following members at the sub-committee established by the resolution adopted at its 302nd meeting:

Australia
Chile
Czechoslovakia
Denmark
Ecuador
France
Haiti
Pakistan
Philippines
Syria
United States

The Chairman of the Advisory Committee was also appointed ex officio.

The Committee at its 318th meeting approved by 27 votes to 7 with 12 abstentions the following estimates for the public information activities of the Organization:

Section 13, \$2,537,400, representing a reduction in the estimate originally submitted by the Secretary-General of \$90,000;

Section 20, Chapter II an estimate of \$90,000, a reduction of \$6,700

Section 21, an estimate of \$892,300, a reduction of \$41,700, and for

Section 26, Chapter I vii, an estimate of \$220,000, a reduction of \$80,000.

It was understood that in making transfers between these sections in 1952 with a view to the most effective concentration of central public information services, the Secretary-General would seek the concurrence of the Advisory Committee in any action of this kind which he proposed.

In the course of the general discussion, a number of delegations expressed the hope that the reductions suggested by the Advisory Committee would not affect services to under-developed areas or in non-official languages. It was also emphasized during the debate that United Nations publications in French should, as far as possible, be kept at a par with publications in English and that, in any event, no reduction in the French edition of the United Nations Bulletin should be contemplated.

At its 318th meeting, 2nd reading, the Committee confirmed these appropriations after rejecting proposals by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for a reduction of \$90,000 in Section 13 and \$20,000 in Section 20, Chapter II

Section 14 - Legal Department

At its 289th meeting the Committee unanimously approved the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee for the Legal Department, in the amount of \$428,000.

Section 15 - Department of Conference and General Services

During the discussion of the estimates for the Department of Conference and General Services at the Committee's 289th meeting, the representatives of Belgium and France requested an assurance of the Secretary-General that documents would in future be translated into French and circulated into that language without delay.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics also expressed his surprise that a great number of important documents, both of recent and of earlier date, were not produced in Russian.

The Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conference and General Services reminded the Committee that in the current year the translation services were suffering from the effects of a wide dispersal in the meeting places of important conferences. This, coupled with the transfer of the Headquarters from Lake Success to New York and an increase in the volume of high priority documents for translation emanating from United Nations organs, had created unusual administrative difficulties. There were also continuing difficulties in recruiting sufficiently qualified translators. Everything would be done to ensure that the French texts of all documents would be distributed at the proper time. As for translations into Russian, he would endeavour, as in the past, to publish in that language ninety per cent of the current documents of the General Assembly, the selection being made in consultation with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics delegation.

The representative of Denmark enquired whether the observation appearing in paragraph 20 of the Statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/448) meant that the appropriations in Section 15 were inadequate.

The Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services replied that the Secretary-General would certainly attempt to manage with the amounts proposed by the Advisory Committee, provided that he is not restricted in the use of the posts and appropriations recommended, especially with regard to the United Nations Postal Administration; the revenue from this latter service would probably exceed the estimates.

The Committee as a whole accepted this understanding and unanimously approved an amount of \$7,275,000 for the Section, subject to the observations made by the Secretary-General in paragraph 20 of his Statement. (A/C.5/448).

Section 16. Department of Administrative and Financial Services

At its 291st meeting, the Committee considered the estimates for Section 16, Administrative and Financial Services.

In the course of its discussion the representative of the Union of South Africa recalled that the transfer of the Buildings Management Service from the Department of Conference and General Services to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services had been referred to at the time as a temporary measure, and he hoped that these services would shortly be re-transferred to Conference and General Services.

The Assistant Secretary-General stated that as soon as the construction programme of the Permanent Headquarters building had been concluded he would review this particular question which had always been under close study.

The Assistant Secretary-General called attention to the fact that the estimates for Section 5a - United Nations Field Service include the provision for 65 new posts to form a reserve of Field Service officials to be assigned to the Buildings Management Service at Headquarters. As the Advisory Committee had not approved the proposal provision should be made in Section 16 in the amount of \$100,000 to provide the Buildings Management Service with the increased staff needed for guard duties in the new Headquarters building.

Several representatives expressed the view that the Committee should defer consideration of this matter until the staffing requirements of the Field Service had been reviewed in the light of the decisions made for political missions. The Secretary-General was accordingly requested to submit later in the session a report on this particular matter which could be reviewed by the Advisory Committee in the normal course. The Committee unanimously approved estimates for Section 16 at the figure of \$2,800,000.

Section 17. Common Staff Costs

The Committee considered the assessments for common staff costs at its 303rd and 318th meetings. The Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of \$44,400 in the estimates originally submitted by the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General had not contested these reductions. The Advisory Committee had proposed a wide reduction in the estimates relating to removal of household goods, termination payments, the programmes of administrative and interne

training, and did not find itself in a position to concur with a proposal of the Secretary-General for a subsidy of \$8,460 covering 18 months rental from 1 July 1951 to the end of 1952 for the International School now situated at Parkway Village.

During the course of the discussion a number of representatives referred to the question of the subsidy for the International School. It was the general feeling of the Committee that a subsidy of this nature, affecting only a part of the Secretariat, could not reasonably be considered as a general item in the budget. Several members of the Committee, however, in view of the difficult circumstances in which the International School at present found itself, were disposed to consider favourably an initial grant on an exceptional basis. At its 318th meeting the Committee decided by 30 votes to 7 with 8 abstentions to adopt a proposal which had been voiced by the representative of Belgium and supported by Syria and other representatives that as an exceptional measure the Secretary-General be authorized to grant a subsidy of \$8,460 towards the 1951-1952 expenses of the International School provided that such a payment only be made within the total funds appropriated for this section, and provided also that all necessary expenditures of the organization falling as a normal charge to this appropriation be met in full.

The representative of the Philippines stated that the programme of administrative training was of very considerable importance as far as the under-developed countries were concerned; he recommended that a larger proportion of trainees should be recruited from those countries and also that in the matter of payment of travel expenses for internes some consideration should be given to the high travelling expenses incurred by members of some countries in sending internes to participate in this programme. He was, therefore, unable to support the Advisory Committee's recommendations for a reduction in these particular credits. At its 318th meeting the Committee adopted unanimously a provision of \$4,130,000 for this section.

Section 18. Common Services.

At its 296th meeting the Fifth Committee considered the estimates for Section 18 - Common Services on the basis of the budget document presented by the Secretary-General (A/1812) \$3,950,900, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (A/1853) \$3,572,900 and the Statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/448)

A number of delegations expressed the view that it was difficult to form an opinion of the estimates in that, to some extent, they were based on unknown factors and lack of operational experience, this being particularly true of items relating to the maintenance and contractual services for the new Headquarters buildings.

However, as the representative of Australia pointed out, there were really three main points at issue between the estimates as submitted by the Secretary-General and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. These points include a reduction of \$200,000 in Chapter II in respect to maintenance costs, a reduction of \$60,000 under telephone services, and a reduction of \$80,000 in the estimate for internal reproduction supplies, specifically in connection with purchase of mimeograph paper.

The discussion was confined almost entirely to these three points. Several delegations expressed concern at the increase for telephone services and particularly at the number of instruments it was proposed to instal in the new conference area. The representative of the U.S.A. felt that real requirements could be met by a much smaller number of instruments and the Fifth Committee should be willing to take that responsibility for the economies thus effected.

The representative of Australia indicated that the estimates for telephone services as submitted by the Secretary-General were not substantially greater than in 1951. Furthermore, it should be borne in mind that the new conference area would be open in 1952, inevitably entailing an increased demand for telephone services. He felt, therefore, that the recommended reduction of \$60,000 by the Advisory Committee should be amended to \$30,000. In so far as maintenance costs were concerned, he reminded the Committee that since the submission of his estimates the Secretary-General had conducted a survey of similar costs in other comparable buildings in New York and had reached the conclusion that it would be necessary to request additional funds in 1952 if the recommendation of the Advisory

Committee was approved. This might entail recourse to the Working Capital Fund. He therefore proposed as a compromise a reduction of only \$100,000 under this heading.

With regard to the recommendation of the Advisory Committee concerning internal reproduction supplies, the representative of Australia stated he would support this reduction. However, he proposed that the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that all delegations co-operate with the Secretary-General to effect economies in the number and size of documents. The Committee decided to take up this particular point later in its current session.

The Committee voted on the two Australian proposals separately; it rejected, by 21 votes to 8, with 8 abstentions the proposal for a reduction in the estimate for maintenance services of \$100,000 only rather than \$200,000 proposed by the Advisory Committee; it also rejected, by 25 votes to 6, with 6 abstentions the proposal for a reduction in respect of telephone services of \$30,000 rather than \$60,000.

The recommendations of the Advisory Committee that the estimates for Section 18 be approved at a figure of \$3,572,900 subject to the observation in Paragraph 239 of its report concerning submission of supplementary estimates should this provision be insufficient was then approved by 39 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Section 19 and 19a - Permanent Equipment; Improvements to Premises.

At its 296th meeting the Committee unanimously approved the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$517,100 for Section 19 - Permanent Equipment, and of \$91,500 for Section 19a - Improvement of Premises.

Section 20 - United Nations Office at Geneva

At its 303rd meeting the Committee considered estimates for the United Nations Office at Geneva excluding provisions for the Information Services and the Economic Commission for Europe which it had dealt with under other headings. The Secretary-General had no objection to the reductions totalling \$40,000 for the remaining services which the Advisory Committee had recommended.

The representative of Brazil pointed out that the bodies which normally met at Geneva should have first call upon the services which the United Nations staff there could provide and only expenditure relating to the meetings of those bodies should appear in the budget estimates; the estimates for meetings of other United Nations bodies should be submitted and approved separately.

Several representatives wished to have information regarding the capacity of the Geneva Office for conference services, and wondered whether it would be possible for the General Assembly itself to hold a session there, and what the particular difficulties were in this connexion. It was explained to the Committee by the Director of the Geneva Office that this question had been considered both in 1948 and 1951. On each occasion the proposal had had to be discarded since the adaption of the assembly hall would be very expensive and, according to the architects consulted, an exceedingly difficult operation; also there was insufficient hotel accommodation in Geneva to provide for all members of the delegations and the secretariat who would have to attend such a session.

The representative of Union of Soviet Socialist Republics noted that the provisions for common staff costs and common services in this office included sums for the Headquarters Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, and proposed that these particular provisions totalling \$52,500 be deducted from the total provision recommended. The Committee agreed to this course on a provisional basis on the understanding that when it considered estimates for section 20a, High Commissioner for Refugees, the appropriate amount would be restored. On the second reading of the estimates the Committee adopted unanimously the provision of \$4,340,820 for the United Nations Office at Geneva which included a total provision of \$3,241,900 for Geneva activities excluding the Information Services and the Economic Commission for Europe which are reviewed in different sections of this report.

Section 20a. Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees

At its 311th meeting the Committee undertook a provisional examination of the budget estimates of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Secretary-General had included in his original estimates a sum of \$727,100 to cover the costs of the Headquarters Office of the High Commissioner in Geneva and the branch offices it was proposed to open during the course of 1951 and 1952.

The Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of \$227,100 in this figure; in its second report of 1951 (paragraphs 295 and 296) it had pointed out the need for a clear definition of the term "administrative expenses" which, under the Statute of the Office of the High Commissioner are to be borne on the budget of the United Nations, as well as the need to ensure that the activities of branch offices do not extend beyond what is permitted in the Statute and thus become dissimilar in nature from those performed at the Headquarters Office in Geneva.

Since the question of substance involved in the Report of the High Commissioner to the General Assembly had still to be discussed in the Third Committee, the Committee did not undertake, at this stage, a detailed examination of the estimates based upon the report of the Advisory Committee.

The representative of the Netherlands proposed that a token sum of \$100,000 be approved pending examination by the Committee of the report of the Advisory Committee on the High Commissioner's budget.

The representative of Canada proposed, however, that the Committee approve provisionally the sum of \$500,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee, without prejudice to any decision which it might be called upon to make in the light of discussions in the Third Committee. It was on the understanding that this sum of \$500,000 was minimum and provisional that the representative of the Netherlands withdrew his proposal.

The representative of Australia suggested that the Advisory Committee give at a subsequent session its interpretation of "administrative expenses", not only in relation to the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, but also for any similar programme which the General Assembly might approve in the future.

The representative of Pakistan considered that there was no justification for these estimates. The Office's Statute made an unwarranted distinction in excluding from the Office's competence countries which had the biggest and gravest refugee problem of all. The High Commissioner's Office should be

financed exclusively by an independent fund fed by such voluntary contributions as the Negotiating Committee could obtain. His attitude was not due to any lack of sympathy for those refugees with whom the High Commissioner's Office was concerned; but a matter of principle was involved.

The representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Czechoslovakia stated that, since their delegations had opposed the establishment of the Office, they were unable to support any appropriation for this purpose.

The Committee approved a provisional estimate of \$500,000 for Section 20a, on the understanding that the budget estimates would be discussed in detail at a later stage in the light of any observations on the activities of the High Commissioner which the Third Committee might wish to make.

Section 20, Chapter IV. Economic Commission for Europe.

Section 22. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

Section 23. Economic Commission for Latin America.

The estimates for the three regional economic commissions were examined by the Fifth Committee at its 304th and 305th meetings.

The Secretary-General had proposed in his original estimates a total sum of \$2,658,800 for the direct costs of these regional commissions.

The Advisory Committee in its second report recommended a total appropriation of \$2,480,000, i.e., a reduction of \$178,800 to be spread as follows: \$42,700 on the estimates for the Economic Commission for Europe, \$51,400 on the estimates for the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, and \$84,700 on the estimates for the Economic Commission for Latin America.

The Secretary-General in a statement to the Committee upon these reductions (A/C.5/448) had stated that he did not see his way clear to accept the proposed reductions; nevertheless a review of the difference in the rate of exchange between the U.S. dollar and the Chilean peso enabled his original estimate for the Economic Commission for Latin America to be reduced by \$35,000.

The main point at issue in the discussion in the Committee on these items was not so much the value of the work of the regional economic commissions, which was clearly evident to the Committee, as the rate of increase in the regional activities in view of the difficulties of administrative planning and the necessary recruitment of qualified technical staff.

The representative of Chile stressed that by unanimous decision at its thirteenth session the Economic and Social Council had confirmed that these

/commissions

commissions were useful instruments for economic co-operation and should be continued indefinitely. The Council had, at the same time, reviewed and approved the work programme of each commission and in this particular matter it had been guided by a more detailed review undertaken by its ad hoc Committee on the Organization and Operation of the Council and its Commissions.

The Economic and Social Council in considering the directives received from the General Assembly concerning the concentration of effort and resources had been satisfied with the way in which the regional economic commissions had allotted priorities to their work programmes which had previously been thoroughly examined by the members of the regional commissions.

The Advisory Committee in paragraphs 315 and 324 of its second report had envisaged the selection of a limited number of tasks of primary importance for these commissions and a slower rate of progress. It had come to this conclusion not on grounds of substance, but in relation to the administrative factors involved.

Several delegations, in supporting the Advisory Committee's recommendations, considered that the reduction proposed could be made without detriment to the Commission's work.

The representative of Canada, whose view was shared by a number of other representatives, agreed that these particular Sections were among the most important of the budget, but that it would be unwise for these estimates to be expanded beyond what Member Governments were prepared to support financially or otherwise whatever the intrinsic merits of the work. The full and effective co-operation of Member Governments in the work of the Commissions was also necessary to ensure that the best value was received for the funds expended.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics considered that the regional economic commissions played a positive part in the working of the organization; it would be inexpedient to limit their activities by reducing the funds at their disposal, and that nothing that might contribute to the re-establishment of economic development and equilibrium should be neglected.

The Committee discussed particularly the proposal in the original estimates of the Secretary-General for the appointment of information officers on the staffing tables of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and the Economic Commission for Latin America; it left this question open for further

review in the light of any recommendations it would receive from the sub-committee it had appointed to deal with information activities in general.

Mention was also made of the Mexico unit and the view expressed that its establishment should not create a precedent.

The Committee adopted the following proposals of Burma and Chile to increase the amounts recommended by the Advisory Committee as follows:

By \$42,700 for the Economic Commission for Europe,
(25 votes to 14, with 7 abstentions)

By \$51,400 for the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,
(37 votes to 7, with 4 abstentions)

By \$49,700 for the Economic Commission for Latin America,
(37 votes to 8, with 2 abstentions)

Supplementary estimates in a total of \$188,500 (A/C.5/451) had been submitted by the Secretary-General in respect of the resolutions adopted by the thirteenth session of the Economic and Social Council.

For the Economic Commission for Europe	-	\$48,300
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For the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East	-	\$56,900
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For the Economic Commission for Latin America	-	\$83,300
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The Advisory Committee in its 15th report of 1951 (A/2007) had recommended that in view of the total appropriations for 1952 which the Committee had approved in first reading it could not recommend approval of these supplementary provisions, it was satisfied that the existing level of appropriation would be sufficient for a number of projects beyond those included in the original budget justification provided that the staffs of the Commissions were adjusted to changing conditions. This report also stressed the serious administrative and planning problems with which the Commissions would be faced in 1952, but stated that it would give favourable consideration to any proposal for transfer of funds from other Sections of the budget for the purpose of financing during 1952 the projects detailed in the supplementary estimates in the event that it should prove possible to advance the recruitment of candidates and the planning of the Commission's work.

At its 317th meeting the Committee approved, by 21 votes to 11, with 13 abstentions, a proposal by the representative of Chile to increase the estimates

/for

for the Economic Commission for Europe by a sum of \$30,000. At its second reading, however, the Committee endorsed a proposal of Australia (13 votes to 11, with 18 abstentions) for a reduction of the estimates by a similar sum, and a further proposal by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for a reduction of \$13,780 in respect of the Frankfurt Office. (15 votes to 6, with 25 abstentions).

The amount approved for the Economic Commission for Europe by the Committee at its second reading, was \$1,008,920. (32 votes to none, with 13 abstentions).

At its 317th meeting, the Committee approved a proposal of the representative of Burma that the estimates for the regional economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, adopted at first reading, be increased by \$47,400. A total appropriation of \$973,800 for this particular Commission was approved on second reading. (35 votes to none, with 11 abstentions).

At its 317th meeting, the Committee approved a proposal from Chile that the estimates for the Economic Commission for Latin America, adopted at first reading, be increased by \$60,000, and approved on second reading a total appropriation for this particular Commission of \$734,700. (36 votes to none, with 11 abstentions).

Section 24 - Hospitality

At its 296th meeting the Committee unanimously approved the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$20,000 for Hospitality for the Organization - reimbursement of individual staff members not in receipt of representation allowance, and authorized hospitality expenditure.

The Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that hospitality requirements for the High Commissioner for Refugees should be met from this provision and drawn under the rules applying to it.

Sections 25 and 26. Official Records and Publications

At its 303rd meeting, the Committee considered the appropriations necessary for the contractual printing of official records of the Organization and its publications. The Secretary-General had requested originally a provision of \$1,970,700 for these two items; after review of the situation later in the year, he had submitted a revised proposal for \$1,850,000 (A/C.5/448). The Advisory Committee had recommended a total appropriation for the two sections in the amount of \$1,600,000 but had recommended that the Secretary-General be authorized to transfer amounts between these two sections.

It was pointed out by the Chairman of the Publications Board, that the Board had developed a strict control system, based on objective criteria, which had enabled the publications programme of the United Nations to be stabilized. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee considered that the Secretariat had made a considerable effort to reduce expenditure to a minimum, but that it should be possible to make further economies by setting a ceiling to annual output and by seeing that delegations were more moderate in their requests for documents.

The representative of Norway drew the Committee's attention to duplications in the issue of documents and publications. The same statistical material was sometimes reproduced in documents of a number of different organizations, and other textual matter on health and social questions was frequently reproduced in a number of publications from different international sources. He requested the Publications Board to avoid such repetitions by securing better co-ordination. The Chairman of the Board stated that it was difficult to avoid entirely duplication in the issues of publications, but many improvements in this respect had already been obtained. The Publications Board was also considering the

compilation of an index in which references to particular information or documents could be found which would be a useful instrument to this end.

The Representative of Brazil considered that the Committee should formulate principles which the Secretary-General could apply to resist excessive requests by delegations and United Nations' organs in the matter of publications. He was further concerned lest the economies proposed would restrict the number of languages in which certain documents were published. The Chairman of the Board stated that there would be no change in the number of languages in which the various publications were currently published and also that the Board was constantly in touch with the permanent delegations in New York and sent to governments only those documents which these delegations requested.

The Committee rejected a revised proposal of the Secretary-General for an appropriation of \$1,700,000 for these two Sections, by 25-2 with 14 abstentions, and approved unanimously a provision of \$1,600,000 for Sections 25 and 26 authorizing the Secretary-General, if need be, to transfer amounts between these two Sections.

This sum was increased by \$75,000 after the Committee had approved a supplementary estimate at its 317th meeting (A/C.5/469) for expenditures to be incurred in 1952 in respect of the sixth session of the General Assembly. The Committee confirmed at its second reading a sum of \$1,675,000 for Sections 25 and 26, after it had rejected a proposal from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for a further reduction of \$20,000 in respect of the publications for information activities.

The Belgian delegation, in the name of many delegations, insisted that the Secretary-General should fulfil his obligation concerning languages in placing French on a basis of strict equality with the other official and working languages of the international organization and that economies to result from budgetary reductions requested by the Assembly be equally spread on all United Nations documents and publications in whatever language these are distributed.

Section 30 - Transfer of the Assets of the League of Nations to the United Nations

At its 296th meeting the Committee unanimously approved an appropriation of \$649,500 representing the second of fifteen annual instalments payable under paragraph 1a of General Assembly Resolution 250(III) and covering credits due to certain Member States in respect of the transfer to the United Nations of the permanent capital assets of the League of Nations.

Section 31 - Amortization of the Headquarters Construction Loan

At its 296th meeting the Committee unanimously approved an appropriation of \$1,000,000 representing the second instalment of the loan advanced by the Government of the United States of America for the construction of the permanent Headquarters, in accordance with the terms of the Loan Agreement approved by the General Assembly in Resolution 242(III).

Section 32 - The International Court of Justice

The Committee considered the estimates for the International Court of Justice at its 301st meeting. The Advisory Committee had proposed an amount of \$617,500 for this section, a reduction of \$9,700 below the Secretary-General's estimates, which was accepted.

In addition, the Secretary-General had submitted supplementary estimates (A/C.5/464 and 467) requesting the sum of \$5,360 to increase the contribution to be made by the Court for the use of the Peace Palace at the Hague and also for a sum of \$17,000 to cover additional printing expenditures. The Advisory Committee in its 12th report 1951 had recommended the adoption of these supplementary estimates and also concurred in the proposed increase for the amount of the Court's contribution for the use of the Peace Palace from 48,000 to 68,400 Netherland florins.

The Committee adopted unanimously the Advisory Committee's revised recommendation for a total appropriation of \$639,860 for this section and concurred in recommending to the General Assembly the adoption of the resolution included in this report modifying the agreement between the United Nations and the Carnegie Foundation concerning the use of the premises of the Peace Palace at the Hague.

Section 33 - Investigations, Enquiries and other activities

In view of the necessity for the General Assembly to adopt the budget for the financial year 1952 before the end of the year, the Committee considered at its 317th and 318th meetings proposals which would best meet this unusual situation.

The Secretary-General had proposed (A/C.5/474) that the Assembly approve before its recess provisional appropriations in the amount to be recommended by the Fifth Committee after its second reading of the estimates, and decide that these appropriations should be financed by provisional contributions from members. The provisional appropriation resolution embodying these authorizations could be superseded at the end of the General Assembly session by a final appropriation resolution which would cover the figures of the 1952 budget as they would stand after any adjustments approved by the General Assembly following the recess. The Secretary-General had also given an indication (A/C.5/L.148) of the extent of additional expenditures which could be reasonably estimated at this time.

The Committee as a whole was reluctant to deal with the adoption of the budget on a provisional basis only.

The representatives of Canada and the United States submitted a joint draft amendment (A/C.5/L.145) to the appropriation resolution, proposing the creation of a new Part XII of the budget (section 33) and the inclusion in it of a blanket amount of \$5,500,000 to cover the unforeseeable expenditures indicated by the Secretary-General. This draft amendment contained certain safeguards regarding the incurring of expenditures on the items covered by this blanket appropriation before the General Assembly had approved detailed estimates falling under the new section. Expenditures not in excess of 1/12 of the amount expended in the fiscal year 1951 were proposed, however, for Investigations and Enquiries and for the United Nations Field Service without such detailed authorization by the General Assembly.

The joint amendment further proposed that an additional paragraph be added to the appropriation resolution stating that should the General Assembly fail to confirm or should it reduce any appropriation covered in the new section, Member States should receive a proportionate credit on contributions due or a proportionate refund of contributions paid.

After a thorough discussion of this proposal, the majority of the Committee considered that it presented a practical solution to a difficult problem. A number of representatives, however, thought that a sum of \$5,000,000 rather than

/ \$5,500,000

\$5,500,000 was more suitable, but the Assistant Secretary-General for Administrative and Financial Services explained that the higher figure was already some half-million dollars less than the total estimate prepared by the Secretary-General and if it were further reduced, the Working Capital Fund would in all probability be put to an even greater strain.

The Representatives of Norway and Pakistan considered that the present difficulty might have been avoided if the Fifth Committee had met a month or so before the opening of the General Assembly, and this procedure was worth close study should a similar occasion arise in the future. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that he could not support the amendment because the provision proposed was intended to cover several projects to which the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics delegation had objected since they were incompatible with the Charter. Other items needed thorough study even before a provisional sum for them was included in the budget and such inclusion might prejudice the General Assembly's subsequent consideration of the questions. The representative of France proposed two textual amendments to the draft which were accepted by the sponsors. The Committee adopted the modified draft amendment for inclusion in the appropriation resolution by 41 votes to 5 with 1 abstention.

Miscellaneous Income

The Advisory Committee had recommended estimates for miscellaneous income in the sum of \$5,812,100. As a result of action taken in the Committee's detailed readings of the budget the representative of the Secretary-General advised the Committee that this sum could be increased by \$90,000. It was further estimated that a sum of \$457,700 could be assumed as being a reasonable estimate in respect of the global sum of \$5,500,000 included in section 33. The total estimated income for 1952 would thus be \$6,359,800.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics considered that care should be taken both in the preparation of these particular estimates and in any administrative arrangements which would result in an increase in the actual sums received under this heading. He proposed that the estimates submitted be increased by a sum of \$40,000 in respect of income on investments and from rental activities. The Committee accepted this proposal and voted a total sum of \$6,399,800 be applied against the reduction of members contributions.

UNFORESEEN AND EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES

Text of the resolution of Unforeseen and Extraordinary Expenses as recommended by the Advisory Committee, subject to amendment in the light of decisions subsequently taken, was considered by the Fifth Committee at its 319th meeting.

The view was expressed by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that expenses incurred in connection with the establishment of the International Bureau of Declaration of Death should be borne by the States adhering to the Convention on the Declaration of Death of Missing Persons and should not, therefore, be financed even initially by an advance from the Working Capital Fund.

On being put to the vote separately, paragraph (c) of the draft resolution was approved by a vote of 28 in favour, none against, 16 abstentions. The resolution as a whole was then approved by a vote of 26 in favour, none against, and no abstentions.

Working Capital Fund

The Committee had before it in a separate report (A/C.5/452) a proposal from the Secretary-General to increase the Working Capital Fund by \$5,000,000 to the figure of \$25,000,000. In support of his proposal, the Secretary-General pointed out that at the present level of United Nations activities, the amount available in the Fund has at times reached a dangerously low level and that the Board of Auditors had expressed its concern at the unsatisfactory cash position with which the Organization was normally faced during the first quarter of the financial year.

Several alternative methods of giving effect to the proposed increase were suggested by the Secretary-General who, while expressing his preference for direct additional advances of \$5,000,000, to be paid by Members in cash in full during 1952, believed that the spreading of such advances over a period of years or, alternatively, the transfer to the Fund of the annual balance on surplus account, together with a direct additional advance of \$1,000,000 a year, would offer an adequate basis for meeting the situation in the absence of any development, at present unforeseen, which would involve considerable financial commitments.

The Advisory Committee, after examination of the Secretary-General's proposals, recommended (A/1988) that on a provisional basis the balance on surplus account

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(\$1,239,000) available for application against assessments for the year 1952, should be transferred and not used as hitherto to reduce annual assessments. It suggested that the General Assembly, at its seventh session, might re-examine the position, and either confirm the transfer of the above balance (supplementing it if necessary by further balances on surplus account) or direct that the balance already transferred be applied against the 1953 assessments.

The Advisory Committee expressed the view, however, that the problem is not merely one of equating the cash resources of the Fund to budgetary requirements, but, equally, one of subjecting to careful scrutiny any further increases in appropriations or expansion of procurements which might give rise to additional withdrawals. Such increases should, therefore, be resisted where not fully warranted on grounds of importance or urgency.

The Secretary-General's request was considered by the Fifth Committee at its 301st and 316th meetings. The Committee first heard a statement by the Chairman of the Board of Auditors, who expressed the view that the possibilities of financing extraordinary expenditure early in 1952 by way of advances from the Working Capital Fund would be extremely limited. In the discussion which ensued, several delegations considered that before action is taken to increase the size of the Fund, other solutions should be sought, either through reductions in expenditure or through measures to secure payments of arrears of contributions as well as payment of assessments earlier in the Organization's financial year.

The difficulties which the Organization was experiencing, it was felt, were due primarily to delay in receipt of contributions, the need of financing arrears, and the extent to which, in the past, the Working Capital Fund had been used for advances to specialized agencies and for the execution of relief programmes. With a view to meeting these particular problems, the Committee accepted a proposal from the Representative of Australia that Member Governments be invited to examine methods whereby, within the limits of their constitutional processes, a substantial proportion of their contributions would be paid within the first quarter of each year, and to report, through the Secretary-General, to the next regular session of the General Assembly on the results of that examination. It was further agreed, on the suggestion of the Representative of Brazil, that the Secretary-General should approach governments individually to find out at what time of the year they could most conveniently pay their contributions, and that the results of such a survey could be reported to the

/General

General Assembly at its next session.

In addition, the Representative of South Africa suggested that further loans to specialized agencies and other bodies should not be recommended if the financial structure of the United Nations was likely to be imperilled thereby.

The Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, together with some other delegations, stated that he was opposed to any increase in the Working Capital Fund, even as a provisional measure, on the grounds that stabilization of the United Nations budget at a level not exceeding \$35,000,000 would make such an increase unnecessary.

At its 316th meeting, the Committee approved by 37 to 5, with 2 abstentions, the Advisory Committee recommendation as contained in their 11th report of 1951 (A/1988). In so approving, it was understood that careful attention would be paid to all aspects of this question including, in particular, the direct relationship between payment of arrears and the size of the Working Capital Fund; the need for early payment of all contributions, and the effect of special demands, - e.g., for extra-budgetary programmes or loans to agencies, on the adequacy of the Fund. It was the desire of many delegations that this problem be fully explored with a view to appropriate recommendations being submitted by the Secretary-General and by the Advisory Committee in the course of 1952.

The text of the draft resolution on the Working Capital Fund as recommended by the Advisory Committee, subject to amendments agreed to in the course of the Fifth Committee's deliberations, was considered at the Committee's 319th meeting.

Certain delegations having expressed their opposition to the inclusion in this draft resolution of a provision authorizing the Secretary-General to reimburse national income taxes paid by United Nations staff members, this paragraph was put to the vote separately, and was approved by 25 in favour, 5 against, with 18 abstentions. The resolution as a whole was then accepted by a vote of 41 in favour, 5 against, and 4 abstentions.

DRAFT APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1952

The General Assembly

Resolves that for the financial year 1952:

1. Appropriations totalling \$US 48,096,780 are hereby voted for the following purposes:

A. UNITED NATIONS

PART I. Sessions of the General Assembly, the Councils, commissions and committees

Dollars (US)

Section

1.	The General Assembly, commissions and committees		1,401,500
2.	The Security Council, commissions and committees		
3.	The Economic and Social Council, commissions and committees	130,300	
	(a) Permanent Central Opium Board and Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body ..	16,000	
	(b) Regional economic commissions	<u>50,300</u>	196,600
4.	The Trusteeship Council, commissions and committees		<u>50,000</u>

TOTAL, PART I:

1,648,100

PART II. Investigations and inquiries

Section

5.	Investigations and inquiries	-
	(a) United Nations Field Service	<u>-</u>

TOTAL, PART II:

PART III. Headquarters, New York

Section

6.	Executive Office of the Secretary--		
	General	465,700	
	(a) Library	<u>440,000</u>	905,700
7.	Department of Security Council Affairs		743,800
8.	Military Staff Committee Secretariat		131,200
9.	Technical Assistance Administration ..		300,000
10.	Department of Economic Affairs		2,167,200
11.	Department of Social Affairs		<u>1,605,000</u>

12.	Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories	875,400
13.	Department of Public Information	2,587,400
14.	Department of Legal Affairs	428,000
15.	Conference and General Services	7,275,000
16.	Administrative and Financial Services	2,800,000
17.	Common staff costs	4,130,000
18.	Common services	3,572,900
19.	Permanent equipment	517,100
20a.	Improvements to premises	91,500

TOTAL, PART III:

28,129,800

PART IV. United Nations Office at Geneva

Section

20.	United Nations Office at Geneva excluding direct costs, Chapter III, secretariat of the Permanent Central Opium Board and Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body)	4,285,120
	Chapter III, joint secretariat of the Permanent Central Opium Board and Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body ..	55,700
	a) Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees	500,000

TOTAL, PART IV:

4,840,820

PART V. Information Centres

Section

21.	Information centres (other than information services in Geneva)	892,300
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TOTAL, PART V:

892,300

PART VI. Regional economic commissions (other than the Economic Commission for Europe)

Section

22.	Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East	973,800
23.	Economic Commission for Latin America	734,700

TOTAL, PART VI:

1,708,500

PART VII. Hospitality

Section

24.	Hospitality	20,000
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TOTAL, PART VII:

20,000

/PART VIII. Contractual

PART VIII. Contractual Printing

Section			
25.	Official records (excluding Chapter VI, Permanent Central Opium Board and Drug Supervisory Body)	816,040	
	Chapter VI, Permanent Central Opium Board and Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body	<u>8,960</u>	825,000
26.	Publications		<u>850,000</u>
	TOTAL, PART VIII:		1,675,000

PART IX Technical Programmes

Section			
27	Advisory social welfare services		768,500
28.	Technical Assistance for economic development		479,400
29.	Programme for training in public administration		<u>145,000</u>
	TOTAL, PART IX:		1,392,900

PART X. Special expenses

Section			
30.	Transfer of the assets of the League of Nations to the United Nations		649,500
31.	Amortization of the Headquarters construction loan		<u>1,000,000</u>
	TOTAL, PART X:		1,649,500

B. THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

PART XI.	The International Court of Justice ...	<u>639,860</u>	
	TOTAL, PART XI:		639,860

C. SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

PART XII.	Investigations, Inquiries and other activities	<u>5,500,000</u>	
	TOTAL, PART XII:		<u>5,500,000</u>
	GRAND TOTAL		<u>48,096,780</u>

2. The appropriations voted by paragraph 1 shall be financed by contributions from Members after adjustment as provided by the Financial Regulations, subject to the provision of paragraph 1 of the resolution relating to the Working Capital Fund. For this purpose, miscellaneous income for the financial year 1952 is estimated at \$US 6,399,800.

3. No expenditures shall be made from the funds appropriated under Part XII until the General Assembly has specifically approved them under the provision of Article 18.2 of the Charter, except that expenditures not in excess of one-twelfth of the amounts expended in the fiscal year 1951 for investigations and inquiries and the Field Service may be expended without such authorization by the General Assembly and provided further that the appropriations in Part XII shall not in any way prejudice any future decision of the General Assembly.

4. The Secretary-General is authorized:

- (i) To administer as a unit the appropriations provided under Section 3 (a), Section 20, Chapter III, and Section 25, Chapter VI;
- (ii) With the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to transfer credits between sections of the budget.

5. In addition to the appropriations voted by paragraph 1, an amount of \$US 14,000 is hereby appropriated for the purchase of books, periodicals, maps and library equipment, from the income of the Library Endowment Fund, in accordance with the objects and provision of the endowment.

6. In the event the General Assembly fails to confirm or reduces any appropriation herein voted, the Member States shall receive a proportionate credit on contributions due or a proportionate refund of contributions paid.

DRAFT RESOLUTION RELATING TO UNFORESEEN AND EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES

The General Assembly

Resolves that, for the financial year 1952,

The Secretary-General, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and subject to the financial regulations of the United Nations, is authorized to enter into commitments to meet unforeseen and extraordinary expenses; provided that the concurrence of the Advisory Committee shall not be necessary for:

- (a) Such commitments not exceeding a total of US \$2,000,000 if the Secretary-General certifies that they relate to the maintenance of peace and security or to urgent economic rehabilitation;
- (b) Such commitments, duly certified by the President of the International Court of Justice, relating to expenses occasioned:
 - (i) by the designation of ad hoc judges (Statute, Article 31),
 - (ii) by the appointment of assessors (Statute, Article 30), or of witnesses and experts (Statute, Article 50),
 - (iii) by the maintenance in office of Judges who have not been re-elected (Statute, Article 13, paragraph 3),
 - (iv) by the holding of sessions of the Court away from The Hague (Statute, Article 22),
 - (v) by the payment of pensions and removal expenses of Judges who have not been re-elected,

and not exceeding \$24,000, \$25,000, \$40,000, \$75,000 and \$27,000, respectively, under each of these five headings;

(c) Such commitments not exceeding a total of \$40,000 as are required for the establishment of an International Bureau for Declarations of Death, in accordance with the terms of article 8 of the Convention on the Declaration of Death of Missing Persons;

The Secretary-General shall report to the Advisory Committee and to the next regular session of the General Assembly all commitments made under the provisions of the present resolution, together with the circumstances relating thereto, and shall submit supplementary estimates to the General Assembly in respect of such commitments.

DRAFT RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND

The General Assembly,

Resolves that;

1. The Working Capital Fund is established for the year 1952 at the amount of \$21,239,203, to be derived:
 - (a) As to \$20,000,000 from cash advances by Members in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of this resolution;
 - (b) As to \$1,239,203 by temporary transfer of the balance of surplus account as at 31 December 1950 not already applied against Members' assessment for 1950.
2. Members shall make cash advances to the Working Capital Fund as required under paragraph 1 (a) above in accordance with the scale adopted by the General Assembly for contributions of Members to the seventh annual budget;
3. There shall be set off against this new allocation of advances the amounts paid by Members to the Working Capital Fund for the financial year 1951; provided that, should the advance paid by any Member to the Working Capital Fund for the financial year 1951 exceed the amount of that Member's advance under the provision of paragraph 2 hereof, the excess shall be set off against the amount of contributions payable by that Member in respect of the seventh annual budget, or any previous budget;
4. The Secretary-General is authorized, notwithstanding the provisions of the Financial Regulations, to withhold the application of adjustments against contributions for the year 1952 in the amount of \$1,239,203, and to transfer this amount as a credit to the Working Capital Fund pending a further consideration by the General Assembly at its seventh session;
5. The Secretary-General is authorized to advance from the Working Capital Fund:
 - (a) Such sums as may be necessary to finance budgetary appropriations pending receipt of contributions; sums so advanced shall be reimbursed as soon as receipts from contributions are available for the purpose;
 - (b) Such sums as may be necessary to finance commitments which may be duly authorized under the provisions of the resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. The Secretary-General shall make provision in the budget estimates for reimbursing the Working Capital Fund;

/(c) Such sums

(c) Such sums as, together with net sums outstanding for the same purposes, do not exceed \$250,000 to continue the revolving fund to finance miscellaneous self-liquidating purchases and activities. Advances in excess of the total \$250,000 may be made with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Secretary-General shall submit, with the annual accounts, an explanation of the outstanding balance of the revolving fund at the end of each year;

(d) Loans to specialized agencies and preparatory commissions of agencies to be established by inter-governmental agreement under the auspices of the United Nations to finance their work, pending receipt by the agencies concerned of sufficient contributions under their own budgets. In making such loans, which shall be repayable within two years, the Secretary-General shall have regard to the proposed financial resources of the agency concerned, and shall obtain the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for any cash issues which would increase the aggregate balance outstanding (including amounts previously advanced and outstanding), at any one time to an amount in excess of \$3,000,000 and for any issue which would increase the balance outstanding (including amounts previously advanced and outstanding) in respect of any one agency to an amount in excess of \$1,000,000, provided that notwithstanding the above provisions the Interim Commission of the International Trade Organization shall be authorized to postpone until 31 December 1952 repayment of the outstanding balance of the loans made to the Interim Commission;

(e) Such sums as, together with the sums previously advanced and outstanding for the same purpose, do not exceed \$420,000 to continue the Staff Housing Fund in order to finance rental payments, guarantee deposits and working capital requirements for housing the staff of the Secretariat. Such advances shall be reimbursed to the Working Capital Fund following the recovery of rental advances, guarantee deposits and working capital advances;

(f) Such sums not exceeding \$90,000 as may be required to finance payments of advance insurance premiums and deposits where the period of insurance extends beyond the end of the financial year in which payment is made.

This amount may be increased with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Secretary-General shall make provision in the budget estimates of each year during the life of the related policies to cover the charges applicable to each such year.

(g) Such sums, if any, as may be necessary to reimburse staff members for national income taxes paid by them in respect of payments received from the United Nations during 1952 or in respect of prior years for which reimbursement has not previously been made.

6. Member Governments be invited to examine methods whereby, within the limits of their constitutional processes, a substantial proportion of their contributions would be paid within the first quarter of each year, and to report through the Secretary-General to the next regular session of the General Assembly on the result of that examination.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE
CARNEGIE FOUNDATION CONCERNING THE USE OF THE
PREMISES OF THE PEACE PALACE AT THE HAGUE

The General Assembly,

Considering, that the contribution payable by the International Court of Justice in respect of the use of the Peace Palace under the terms of Article II of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Carnegie Foundation concerning the use of the premises of the Peace Palace at The Hague as contained in Annex A to General Assembly Resolution 84 (I), adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 1946, is no longer sufficient to defray the costs which the Carnegie Foundation are required to pay under the terms of the said Agreement,

Approves the supplementary agreement between the United Nations and the Carnegie Foundation concerning the use of the Peace Palace at The Hague as set forth in Annex I to this resolution.

Annex I

Supplementary agreement between the United Nations and the Carnegie Foundation concerning the use of the premises of the Peace Palace at The Hague.

1. The Carnegie Foundation and the United Nations hereby agree that Article II to the agreement between the United Nations and the Carnegie Foundation concerning the use of the premises of the Peace Palace at The Hague as contained in Annex A to General Assembly Resolution 84 (I) adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 1946 shall be amended to read as follows:

"Article II

The annual contribution payable by the International Court of Justice in respect to the use of the Peace Palace is hereby fixed at 68,400 Netherlands florins net."

2. This supplementary agreement shall enter into force as of (January 1, 1952).
