

Reorganisation of Secretariat 1960–1961: Reorganisation of Secretariat 1960...

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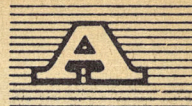
Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Reorganization of Secretariat

14 Oct. - 21 Dec. 60

Gen. Assembly's documents: 15-th session.

- Report of D.H.
- 15-th and 16-th report of the Advisory Committee
- Resolution adopted by the Gen-Assembly



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/4536
14 October 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifteenth session
Agenda item 58

ORGANIZATION AND WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT: REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS APPOINTED UNDER GENERAL
ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1446 (XIV) AND PROVISIONAL
RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By resolution 1446 (XIV) of 5 December 1959, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General "to appoint a committee of experts, composed of six persons with broad and practical experience in the various aspects of administration and chosen with due regard to geographical distribution in consultation with the respective Governments, to work together with the Secretary-General in reviewing the activities and organization of the Secretariat of the United Nations with a view to effecting or proposing further measures designed to ensure maximum economy and efficiency in the Secretariat". By the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, having considered a report of the committee of experts, to present to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session provisional recommendations thereon together with the committee's report, bearing in mind that the Secretary-General's final recommendations together with further reports of the committee shall be presented to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session.
2. The Secretary-General has found it difficult to give these decisions of the General Assembly a satisfactory implementation wholly in line with the provisions of the resolution. With the present wide membership of the Organization, six posts seemed insufficient to provide for adequate geographical distribution. For that purpose, the number of eight seemed indicated.

3. The Secretary-General assumed that in case of conflict between a request for proper geographical distribution and a decision on the number of committee members, the former consideration, from the point of view of the General Assembly, should take precedence. Accordingly, the Secretary-General invited eight persons whose qualifications and experience, in his opinion, conformed to the intentions of the General Assembly to constitute the committee. In making this decision, the Secretary-General was taking into account the fact that the General Assembly would have the opportunity of pronouncing itself on the organization of the committee. In the light of the considerations set out above, the Secretary-General now recommends that the General Assembly confirm the decision he has made on a provisional basis.

4. As regards membership of the committee, stress was laid in the Fifth Committee on the importance of those selected being persons of stature and reputation in their respective fields of competence, as well as persons of absolute integrity, ready to place the interest of the United Nations above national interest. Since the review necessarily involves a broad evaluation of programmes and work priorities, the Secretary-General did not consider it necessary that they be in all cases "management experts" in a technical sense. His aim, rather, was to secure a reasonable balance of experience and expertise, bearing in mind the extremely varied nature of the work which the Secretariat is called upon to perform.

5. The Secretary-General is happy to inform the General Assembly that the following distinguished persons have accepted his invitation to serve on the Committee:

- Mr. Guillaume Georges-Picot - former Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations and formerly Under-Secretary in charge of Social Affairs;
- Mr. Francisco Urrutia - former Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations;
- Mr. A.A. Fomin - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; former member of USSR Permanent Mission to the United Nations and of the Delegation of USSR to the General Assembly;
- Mr. Omar Loutfi - Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic to the United Nations;

- Sir Harold Parker, K.C.B. - member of International Civil Service Advisory Board, former Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- Mr. Alex Quaison-Sackey - Permanent representative of Ghana to the United Nations;
- Mr. C. S. Venkatachar - High Commissioner of India to Canada;
- Dr. Herman B. Wells - President of the University of Indiana; former member of the delegation of the United States of America to the General Assembly.

6. To assist the Committee in its work, the Secretary-General appointed a Secretariat working party consisting of the Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General, as Chairman, the Controller, and the Director of Personnel. He has also, in consultation with the Committee, appointed two consultants, and has assigned several members of the Secretariat to assist the Committee.

7. In accordance with the terms of resolution 1446 (XIV), the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the first interim report of the Committee of Experts. The resolution also requests the Secretary-General to transmit his provisional recommendations thereon. The Secretary-General draws the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 6 of the report, in which the Committee states that it does not make specific recommendations at this stage of its work, and that it is working on the assumption that the Secretary-General will not be requested to undertake studies, etc., involving additional expenses, or expansion of the regular staff of the Secretariat, except in cases of real urgency, until after the General Assembly has had the opportunity of examining the Committee's final report. Apart from his recommendation in paragraph 3 above, in regard to the widening of the Committee's membership to meet more adequately the needs of geographical distribution, the Secretary-General has no recommendation to make other than that the General Assembly take note of the statement in paragraph 6 of the Committee's report.

ANNEX

INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE REVIEW OF
THE ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SECRETARIAT

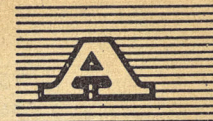
1. In accordance with the terms of resolution 1446 (XIV), the Committee of Experts on the Review of the Activities and Organization of the Secretariat has the honour to submit this interim report to the Secretary-General for transmission to the fifteenth session of the General Assembly.
2. The Committee of Experts met from 23 June to 5 July 1960, and again from 1 September to 16 September 1960. At its first meeting Mr. Guillaume Georges-Picot and Mr. Francisco Urrutia were elected Chairman and Rapporteur, respectively.
3. The Committee, bearing in mind resolution 1446 (XIV) of the General Assembly which required it to work with the Secretary-General in reviewing the activities and organization of the Secretariat of the United Nations with a view to effecting or proposing further measures designed to ensure maximum economy and efficiency in the Secretariat, considered how best the task entrusted to it could be undertaken. It decided that it would be best to approach the question of maximum economy and efficiency from a broad and comprehensive point of view, bearing in mind developments in recent years.
4. At its first session in June-July 1960, the Committee had meetings with the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. It then began a series of intensive meetings with heads of departments and offices on the basis of the documentation which had been submitted by the Secretariat in preparation for this session. The Committee met with the Under-Secretaries in charge of the following offices and departments at Headquarters: the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Office of Legal Affairs (for which the Officer in Charge appeared before the Committee), the Office of the Controller, the Office of Personnel, the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Office of Public Information (for which the Acting Head appeared before the Committee), the Office of Conference Services, the Office of General Services and UNICEF. During this session, the Committee requested the preparation of working papers on specific points which emerged in these interviews.

5. At its September session, the Committee discussed a number of these documents with Under-Secretaries and other senior staff. It held meetings with one of the Under-Secretaries for Special Political Affairs, the Under-Secretary in charge of the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, the newly-appointed Under-Secretary for the Office of Public Information, the Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board and the Managing Director of the United Nations Special Fund. It also had meetings with the Director of Personnel, who attended all the meetings of the Committee, and with the Controller and the Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General. The Committee met several times with the Under-Secretary in charge of Economic and Social Affairs and held intensive discussions with him on the activities of his Department. It also had meetings with the Deputy Under-Secretary and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Specialized Agencies, the Commissioner for Technical Assistance, and the heads of the Bureau of Social Affairs, the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, the Statistical Office, the Division of General Economic Research and Policies, the Resources and Transport Branch and the Water Resources Development Centre of the United Nations and the Fiscal and Financial Branch. A meeting was also held with the Director of the Division of Human Rights.

6. The Committee considers that it would be better equipped to decide on different aspects of the review and specific problems arising therefrom after studying the additional material it has requested from the Secretariat in preparation for its intensive session in 1961. The Committee, therefore, does not make specific recommendations at this stage of its work. It realizes that between now and the date on which it submits its final report in the summer of 1961, occasions may arise for the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the functional commissions and other policy-making organs to request the Secretary-General to undertake studies, etc. involving additional expenses or the expansion of the regular staff of the Organization. The Committee is working on the assumption that until the General Assembly has had the opportunity of examining the Committee's final report, such decisions would be limited to matters of real urgency.

7. As regards its programme for next year, the Committee proposes to meet for an extended session at Headquarters on 1 February 1961 and to visit the European Office of the United Nations at Geneva in March-April. In the course of its visit to Geneva, the Committee will be able to study the activities of the Economic Commission for Europe and other units of the Secretariat there. It will also, either at New York or Geneva, have discussions with the Executive Secretaries of the other regional economic commissions.

8. On its return to Headquarters, the Committee will finalize the results of its studies and prepare its report. Resolution 1446 (XIV) provides that the Committee's final report on the review of the activities and organization of the Secretariat and the final recommendations of the Secretary-General shall be presented to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions is also requested to submit its observations on the abovementioned review and on the report of the Secretary-General. In order to allow sufficient time for the preparation of the Secretary-General's report, for the comments of the Advisory Committee and for the consideration of these various documents by the Member Governments before the sixteenth session of the General Assembly, the Committee envisages the completion of its final report by May 1961.



NATIONS UNIES
ASSEMBLEE
GENERALE



Distr.
GENERALE
A/4536
14 octobre 1960
FRANCAIS
ORIGINAL : ANGLAIS

Quinzième session
Point 58 de l'ordre du jour

ORGANISATION ET TRAVAUX DU SECRETARIAT : RAPPORT DU COMITE D'EXPERTS
NOMME EN EXECUTION DE LA RESOLUTION 1446 (XIV) DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE
ET RECOMMANDATIONS PROVISOIRES DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL A CE SUJET

Rapport du Secrétaire général

1. Par sa résolution 1446 (XIV) du 5 décembre 1959, l'Assemblée générale a prié le Secrétaire général de nommer un comité d'experts - composé de six personnes ayant une vaste expérience d'ordre pratique en ce qui touche les divers aspects de l'administration et choisies, compte dûment tenu de la répartition géographique, en consultation avec les gouvernements respectifs - qui collaborerait avec le Secrétaire général à l'examen des activités et de l'organisation du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies en vue de prendre ou de proposer de nouvelles mesures destinées à permettre le maximum d'économies et d'efficacité au Secrétariat. Dans la même résolution, l'Assemblée générale priait le Secrétaire général, lorsqu'il aurait reçu un rapport du comité d'experts et l'aurait examiné, de présenter à l'Assemblée générale, lors de sa quinzième session, ledit rapport ainsi que des recommandations provisoires à ce sujet, étant entendu que les recommandations définitives du Secrétaire général et les autres rapports du comité seraient présentés à l'Assemblée lors de sa seizième session.
2. Le Secrétaire général a jugé difficile de donner suite à ces décisions de l'Assemblée générale d'une manière satisfaisante en respectant entièrement les dispositions de la résolution. Etant donné le nombre considérable de Membres de l'Organisation, six postes ont paru insuffisants pour permettre une répartition géographique convenable. Pour y parvenir, il semblait indiqué de porter ce nombre à huit.

3. Le Secrétaire général a estimé que lorsqu'il y avait incompatibilité entre une demande tendant à une répartition géographique équitable et une décision concernant le nombre de membres d'un comité, la première considération devait l'emporter, du point de vue de l'Assemblée générale. En conséquence, le Secrétaire général a invité huit personnes dont les titres et l'expérience lui ont paru correspondre aux intentions de l'Assemblée générale à faire partie du comité. En prenant cette décision, le Secrétaire général a tenu compte du fait que l'Assemblée générale aurait l'occasion de se prononcer sur l'organisation du comité. Etant donné les considérations exposées plus haut, le Secrétaire général recommande donc que l'Assemblée générale confirme la décision qu'il a prise à titre provisoire.

4. En ce qui concerne la composition du comité, la Cinquième Commission a fait ressortir combien il était important que les personnes désignées se distinguent non seulement par l'autorité et la réputation qu'elles ont chacune dans leur spécialité, mais aussi par leur intégrité absolue, et soient prêtes à placer l'intérêt des Nations Unies avant l'intérêt national. Etant donné que l'enquête dont il s'agit implique nécessairement une évaluation générale des programmes et de l'ordre de priorité des travaux, le Secrétaire général n'a pas jugé indispensable de faire appel uniquement à des techniciens de l'administration. Il a cherché plutôt à ménager un équilibre raisonnable entre l'expérience et les connaissances techniques, en considérant l'extrême diversité des travaux que le Secrétariat est appelé à exécuter.

5. Le Secrétaire général est heureux d'informer l'Assemblée générale que les personnalités suivantes ont accepté son invitation à faire partie du comité :

- M. Guillaume Georges-Picot - Ancien représentant permanent de la France auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et ancien Sous-Secrétaire aux affaires sociales;
- M. Francisco Urrutia - Ancien représentant permanent de la Colombie auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies;
- M. A. A. Fomine - Ministère des affaires étrangères de l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques, ancien membre de la mission permanente de l'Union soviétique auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et de la délégation de l'Union soviétique à l'Assemblée générale;
- M. Omar Loutfi - Représentant permanent de la République arabe unie auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies;

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- Sir Harold Parker, K. C. B. - Membre du Comité consultatif de la fonction publique internationale, ancien Secrétaire permanent au Ministère de la défense du Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord;
- M. Alex Quaison-Sackey - Représentant permanent du Ghana auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies;
- M. C. S. Venkatachar - Haut-Commissaire de l'Inde au Canada;
- M. Herman B. Wells - Président de l'Université d'Indiana, ancien membre de la délégation des Etats-Unis d'Amérique à l'Assemblée générale.

6. Pour assister le comité dans ses travaux, le Secrétaire général a désigné un groupe de travail du Secrétariat composé du Directeur du Cabinet du Secrétaire général, qui en est le président, du Contrôleur et du Directeur du personnel. Il a également nommé deux consultants, en consultation avec le Comité, et a désigné plusieurs membres du Secrétariat pour aider celui-ci.

7. Conformément aux termes de la résolution 1446 (XIV), le Secrétaire général a l'honneur de communiquer à l'Assemblée générale le premier rapport provisoire du Comité d'experts. Dans la résolution, le Secrétaire général est invité en outre à présenter ses recommandations provisoires à ce sujet. Le Secrétaire général appelle l'attention de l'Assemblée générale sur le paragraphe 6 du rapport, dans lequel le Comité indique qu'il ne formule pour l'instant aucune recommandation précise et qu'il a pris pour hypothèse que, tant que l'Assemblée générale n'aura pas eu la possibilité d'examiner le rapport définitif du Comité, le Secrétaire général ne sera pas invité à entreprendre des études, etc., qui obligeraient à engager des dépenses supplémentaires ou à renforcer le personnel permanent du Secrétariat, sauf dans les cas vraiment urgents. A l'exception de la recommandation qu'il a formulée au paragraphe 3 ci-dessus au sujet de l'augmentation des membres du Comité pour répondre d'une façon plus satisfaisante aux besoins de la répartition géographique, le Secrétaire général n'a pas de recommandation à faire, si ce n'est que l'Assemblée générale prenne note des considérations exposées par le Comité au paragraphe 6 de son rapport.

ANNEXE

RAPPORT PROVISOIRE DU COMITE D'EXPERTS POUR L'EXAMEN DES
ACTIVITES ET DE L'ORGANISATION DU SECRETARIAT

1. Conformément aux termes de la résolution 1446 (XIV), le Comité d'experts pour l'examen des activités et de l'organisation du Secrétariat a l'honneur de soumettre au Secrétaire général le présent rapport provisoire pour qu'il le transmette à l'Assemblée générale à sa quinzième session.
2. Le Comité d'experts s'est réuni du 23 juin au 5 juillet 1960 puis à nouveau du 1er au 16 septembre 1960. A la première séance, M. Guillaume Georges-Picot et M. Francisco Urrutia ont été élus respectivement Président et Rapporteur.
3. Ayant présente à l'esprit la résolution 1446 (XIV) de l'Assemblée générale qui l'invitait à collaborer avec le Secrétaire général à l'examen des activités et de l'organisation du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies en vue de prendre ou de proposer de nouvelles mesures destinées à permettre le maximum d'économies et d'efficacité au Secrétariat, le Comité s'est demandé comment il convenait d'organiser ses travaux pour atteindre les meilleurs résultats. Il a pensé que le mieux serait d'aborder la question des économies et de l'efficacité maximums d'un point de vue large et général, en tenant compte de l'évolution des dernières années.
4. Au cours de sa première session en juin-juillet 1960, le Comité a eu des entretiens avec le Secrétaire général et avec le Président du Comité consultatif pour les questions administratives et budgétaires. Il a commencé ensuite une série de discussions approfondies avec les chefs de départements et de services sur la base de la documentation qui avait été soumise par le Secrétariat en vue de cette session. Le Comité s'est entretenu avec les sous-secrétaires chargés des services et départements ci-après au Siège : le Cabinet du Secrétaire général, le Service juridique (pour lequel le fonctionnaire responsable s'est présenté devant le Comité), le Service financier, le Service du personnel, le Département des affaires politiques et des affaires du Conseil de sécurité, le Département de la tutelle et des renseignements relatifs aux territoires non autonomes, le Service de l'information (dont le chef par interim s'est présenté devant le Comité), le Service des conférences, le Bureau des services généraux et le FISE. Au cours de cette session, le Comité a demandé que des documents de travail soient préparés sur certaines questions qui s'étaient posées au cours de ces entretiens.

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5. A la session qu'il a tenue en septembre, le Comité a examiné avec des sous-secrétaires et d'autres fonctionnaires de rang élevé certains de ces documents. Il a eu un entretien avec un des sous-secrétaires aux affaires politiques spéciales, le Sous-Secrétaire chargé du Département de la tutelle et des renseignements relatifs aux territoires non autonomes, le Sous-Secrétaire récemment désigné, chargé du Service de l'information, le Président du Bureau de l'assistance technique et le Directeur général du fonds spécial des Nations Unies. Il s'est entretenu aussi avec le Directeur du personnel qui a assisté à toutes les séances du Comité, avec le Contrôleur et avec le Chef de Cabinet du Secrétaire général. A plusieurs reprises, le Comité s'est entretenu avec le Sous-Secrétaire chargé des affaires économiques et sociales et il a examiné avec lui de façon approfondie les activités de son département. Il s'est entretenu aussi avec le Sous-Secrétaire adjoint aux affaires économiques et sociales qui est aussi le représentant personnel du Secrétaire général auprès des institutions spécialisées, avec le Commissaire à l'assistance technique et avec les chefs de la Direction des affaires sociales, de la Direction des opérations de l'assistance technique, du Bureau de statistique, de la Division des tendances et politiques économiques générales, du Service des ressources et de l'économie des transports, du Centre d'aménagement des ressources hydrauliques des Nations Unies et du Service des études fiscales et financières.

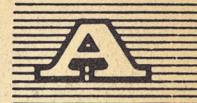
Il s'est également entretenu avec le Directeur de la Division des droits de l'homme.

6. Le Comité est d'avis qu'il sera mieux à même de se prononcer sur les différents aspects et sur les divers problèmes une fois qu'il aura eu la possibilité d'étudier la documentation complémentaire qu'il a demandée au Secrétariat en vue de sa grande session de 1961. Le Comité ne formule donc aucune recommandation précise pour l'instant. Il sait bien que d'ici l'été de 1961, époque à laquelle il compte présenter son rapport définitif, l'Assemblée générale, le Conseil économique et social, les commissions techniques et d'autres organes délibérants auront l'occasion de prier le Secrétaire général d'entreprendre des études, etc., qui obligeront à engager des dépenses supplémentaires ou à renforcer le personnel permanent de l'Organisation. Le Comité a pris pour hypothèse que, tant que l'Assemblée générale n'aura pas eu la possibilité d'examiner le rapport définitif du Comité, les décisions de ce genre seront limitées aux affaires vraiment urgentes.

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7. Pour ce qui est de son programme de l'année prochaine, le Comité se propose de tenir une session prolongée au Siège à partir du 1er février 1961, et de se rendre à l'Office européen de l'Organisation à Genève en mars-avril. Au cours de sa visite à Genève, le Comité pourra étudier les activités de la Commission économique pour l'Europe et celles d'autres services du Secrétariat installés dans la même ville. Il s'entretiendra également, à New York ou à Genève, avec les secrétaires exécutifs des autres commissions économiques régionales.

8. Une fois rentré à New York, le Comité dégagera les résultats de ses études et préparera son rapport. La résolution 1446 (XIV) dispose que le rapport définitif du Comité et les recommandations du Secrétaire général seront présentés à l'Assemblée générale lors de sa seizième session. De même, le Comité consultatif pour les questions administratives et budgétaires a été prié de faire connaître ses observations sur l'examen qui aura été effectué et sur le rapport du Secrétaire général. Le rapport devra être examiné par le Secrétaire général et le Comité consultatif et les divers documents devront être transmis aux gouvernements des Etats Membres en temps voulu pour qu'ils puissent être étudiés avant la seizième session de l'Assemblée générale. Pour tous ces motifs, le Comité compte achever son rapport définitif pour mai 1961.



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/4554
28 October 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifteenth session
Agenda item 58

ORGANIZATION AND WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT: REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS APPOINTED UNDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 1446 (XIV) AND PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS
THEREON BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Fifteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary
Questions to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session

1. The specific responsibilities assigned to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions under General Assembly resolution 1446 (XIV) of 5 December 1959 on the organization and management of the work of the Secretariat of the United Nations derive from the following two provisions of that resolution:
 - (a) The request in operative paragraph 2 that the Secretary-General consult with the Advisory Committee on the arrangements to be made for the appointment and functioning of the committee of experts; and
 - (b) The request in operative paragraph 4 that the Advisory Committee submit its observations on the review and on the related reports of the Secretary-General.
2. As regards (a) above, the Advisory Committee had occasion in June 1960 to consider a preliminary report from the Secretary-General on the arrangements to be made and on the related budgetary requirements for 1960. At that time, the Committee agreed that the Secretary-General's provisional decision to enlarge the membership of the committee of experts from six to eight was a matter for confirmation by the General Assembly, but that, pending such confirmation, there would be advantage in proceeding with the review. The Advisory Committee also concurred in the necessary expenditures to enable the committee of experts to start its work.

3. In regard to its second obligation (see para. 1 (b) above), the Advisory Committee would recall that operative paragraph 3 of resolution 1446 (XIV) envisaged a report by the committee of experts to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session, together with the Secretary-General's provisional recommendations thereon, bearing in mind that the Secretary-General's final recommendations, together with further reports of the committee of experts, were to be presented to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session. However, in the absence of specific recommendations in the reports before the General Assembly at its present session (A/4536 and annex), there is no occasion for the Advisory Committee to comment, pending submission of the final reports of the committee of experts and the Secretary-General, at present scheduled for May 1961. In the meantime, the Advisory Committee would invite attention, as the Secretary-General has done (A/4536, para. 7), to paragraph 6 of the report of the committee of experts (A/4536, annex), in which that committee states its assumption that the Secretary-General will not be requested to undertake studies, etc., involving additional expenses, or expansion of the regular staff of the Secretariat, except in cases of real urgency, until after the General Assembly has had the opportunity of examining that committee's final report. This position is fully in accord with the approach advocated by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 29 of its report on the 1961 budget estimates.^{1/}

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/4408).



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/4556
31 October 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifteenth session
Agenda item 50

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1961

Revised estimates for section 1 arising from the reports of the Secretary-General and the Committee of Experts appointed under General Assembly resolution 1446 (XIV) on the organization and work of the Secretariat (A/4536)

Sixteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/830) for section 1 of the budget estimates for 1961 to meet expenses connected with the work of the Committee of Experts appointed under General Assembly resolution 1446 (XIV) of 5 December 1959 on the organization and activities of the Secretariat.
2. The Advisory Committee notes that the estimates are based on the 1961 time-table of the Committee of Experts as set out in paragraphs 7 and 8 of that Committee's interim report (A/4536, annex), namely, an extended session beginning at Headquarters on 1 February and including a visit to the United Nations Office at Geneva in March-April. On its return, the Committee will reconvene at Headquarters for the preparation of its final report, scheduled for completion in May 1961. On the assumption that the General Assembly will confirm the provisional decision to enlarge the membership of the Committee to eight, travel and subsistence of members is estimated to cost some \$34,750. Other estimated expenses relate to travel and subsistence of staff assigned from Headquarters to serve the Committee in Geneva (\$5,250) and provision for such outside consultants as the Committee may require (\$10,000).
3. The Advisory Committee recommends the addition, as proposed by the Secretary-General, of an amount of \$50,000 to the appropriation under section 1, chapter V, of the 1961 budget.



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/4536/Corr.1
1 November 1960
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fifteenth session
Agenda item 58

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RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of the Secretary-General

CORRIGENDUM

Paragraph 5

Replace the note concerning Mr. Guillaume Georges-Picot by the following:
"former Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations and
formerly Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of
Economic Affairs and the Department of Social Affairs."



UNITED NATIONS
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ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/4601
28 November 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifteenth session
Agenda item 58

ORGANIZATION AND WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT: REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS APPOINTED UNDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 1446 (XIV) AND PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS
THEREON BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. T.W. CUTTS (Australia)

1. Agenda item 58 was considered at the 784th meeting of the Fifth Committee, the relevant documents being an interim report (A/4536, annex) of the Committee of Experts on the Review of the Activities and Organization of the Secretariat (appointed under General Assembly resolution 1446 (XIV) of 5 December 1959) and the related observations of the Secretary-General (A/4536) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/4554).
2. The Secretary-General reported (A/4536, paras. 2 and 3) that, though General Assembly resolution 1446 (XIV) provided for the appointment of a committee of experts of six members, he had not found it possible, within that number, to meet the other requirement laid down in the General Assembly resolution - that of satisfactory geographical distribution. He had therefore, provisionally and subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, appointed a committee of eight members. He sought the Assembly's concurrence in that action.
3. While not questioning the soundness of the Secretary-General's action, some delegations considered that it had perhaps been unwise to depart from the exact terms of the resolution without prior reference to the Assembly. They asked why the representatives of the Secretary-General had not pointed out the need for a larger membership when the item was under discussion at the fourteenth session.

4. The representative of the Secretary-General said that at the time of the adoption in December 1959 of General Assembly resolution 1446 (XIV) no difficulty had been foreseen in appointing a committee of six experts on a satisfactory geographical basis. It was only at the subsequent stage of consultation with Governments that it had been found difficult, with a committee limited to six members, to meet the views of Governments in relation to geographical distribution. Two courses had then been open to the Secretary-General: either to do nothing, on the ground that literal compliance with the terms of the resolution would have been undesirable in an important respect, or to appoint, on a purely provisional basis and subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, a membership consistent with the requirement of geographical distribution. The latter course had been followed, because of the heavy volume of work awaiting the Committee, but the General Assembly was still free to confirm or reject the Secretary-General's provisional decision.

5. In its interim report, the Committee of Experts said that it contemplated holding two principal sessions in New York in the first half of 1961, and visiting the European Office of the United Nations between those sessions; and further that it hoped to complete its final report by May 1961. A number of delegations expressed disappointment that the report contained so little of substance. They recognized that it had been agreed in 1959 that the Committee of Experts would present the main body of its findings and recommendations in 1961. However, they had understood that the Fifth Committee would receive at the current (1960) session a progress report identifying the problems to be studied jointly by the Secretary-General and the Expert Committee, and outlining the working methods to be followed in the review.

6. There was general support in the Committee for the suggestion of the Committee of Experts (A/4536, annex, para. 6), which had been endorsed by the Advisory Committee (A/4554, para. 3), that, pending examination of the final report by the General Assembly, the various organs of the United Nations should not - save in cases of real urgency - propose the initiation of studies or other projects involving additions to the budget or to the permanent establishment of the Secretariat.

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7. Some delegations suggested that, apart from the material presented by the Secretariat, the Committee of Experts should examine the observations concerning the working of the Secretariat which a number of Member States had offered during the current session of the General Assembly including proposals for a revised structure of the Secretariat designed to represent three main groupings of Member States. Those delegations also recommended that a study should be made of ways and means of stabilizing the regular budget of the Organization, as well as of the possible introduction of a special operational budget for the financing of additional programmes in the economic and social fields. They urged that close attention should be given to the problem of geographical distribution in the Secretariat and to the related question of the desirable ratio of career appointments to fixed-term appointments.

8. Other delegations took the view that, according to the terms of reference as defined in the Assembly resolution, the Committee of Experts had no authority to make proposals concerning the structure of the Secretariat which involved a revision of the Charter.

9. The Committee approved without objection the recommendation of the Advisory Committee (A/4556) for the addition, as proposed by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/830), of \$50,000 to the appropriation under section 1 of the 1961 budget, to provide for the estimated expenses of the Committee of Experts in that year.

Recommendation of the Committee

10. At its 784th meeting, the Fifth Committee unanimously decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution.

ORGANIZATION AND WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The General Assembly

1. Takes note of the interim report of the Committee of Experts on the Activities and Organization of the Secretariat^{1/} and the related observations of the Secretary-General^{2/} and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;^{3/}

^{1/} A/4536 and Corr.1, annex.

^{2/} A/4536 and Corr.1.

^{3/} A/4554.

2. Confirms the provisional decision of the Secretary-General that, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 1446 (XIV) of 5 December 1959, the composition of the Committee of Experts should be increased from six to eight members;

3. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee of Experts that, pending examination of its final report by the General Assembly, United Nations organs should not - save in cases of real urgency - propose the initiation of studies or other projects involving additions to the budget or to the permanent establishment of the Secretariat.



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
LIMITED

A/RES/1557 (XV)
21 December 1960

Fifteenth session
Agenda item 58

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/4601)]

1557 (XV). Organization and work of the Secretariat

The General Assembly

1. Takes note of the interim report of the Committee of Experts on the Review of the Activities and Organization of the Secretariat^{1/} and the related observations of the Secretary-General^{2/} and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;^{3/}

2. Confirms the provisional decision of the Secretary-General that, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 1446 (XIV) of 5 December 1959, the composition of the Committee of Experts should be increased from six to eight members;

3. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee of Experts that, pending examination of its final report by the General Assembly, United Nations organs should not, save in cases of real urgency, propose the initiation of studies or other projects involving additions to the budget or to the permanent establishment of the Secretariat.

954th plenary meeting,
18 December 1960.

1/ A/4536 and Corr. 1, annex.

2/ A/4536 and Corr.1, paras. 1-7.

3/ A/4554.