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Middle East

Meeting of Advisory Committee on UNEF

12 Oct. 57

CONFIDENTIAL

MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON UNEF

(Meeting held in the Secretary-General's Conference Room on Saturday, 12 October 1957, at 10:30 a.m.)

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Gentlemen, I am sorry that we had to call on you again, but we felt that it would be a natural follow-through of our previous contacts concerning our report on the UNEF. The report is out this morning and I feel that the first thing we would like to do is to inform you of such small changes as have been made after our last discussion. I think, however, that that is a minor point. The major point is that we certainly are facing a somewhat unusual situation in the General Assembly. This kind of report, as we know, presents the General Assembly with a type of procedure and substantive problem which it has not had to face so far.

The Advisory Committee has, of course, no mandate at all to discuss procedures or, so to say, to act in that respect for the General Assembly, and it is of course in no way the intention that we, here and now, should try and establish some kind of rule of how things should be run. But on the other hand, the members of this group represent those members best informed about the problems and the character of solutions sought, and for that reason I felt that it would be perfectly in order, informally and off the record, to look at the problem as to how this should best be handled. That is to say, the first part of this discussion would be informative concerning the report. The second part, I for my part would consider as being off the record and not committee procedure as such, but as delegations who are members of the Committee speaking in their private capacity, just to see how we can best advise the President of the General Assembly and to see what kind of feelings you have yourselves about the way in which you would like to see it handled.

With that background, I would like, first of all, to ask Mr. Turner to give an indication of what changes have been made. They are very little, but it would just give a kind of final comment on this report.

MR. TURNER: I am afraid that my comments would have to be confined to Part III of the report.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Yes, but that is where something has happened. For the rest, there are one or two words, but nothing of any substance.

MR. TURNER: There is really very little of substance even in Part III, the financial part of the report. We made one or two small changes in response to certain points which were raised by some members of this Committee at the last meeting. I think the most important change is possibly in connexion with estimates which we have had to revise as to the likely cost of the reimbursing, in the first place, of the special allowances during the initial six-month period and, in the second place, if the Assembly so decides, the cost of reimbursing all extra and extraordinary costs relating to pay and allowances for the remainder of the period to 31 December next.

You will note that, at the top of page 32 of the English text, the estimates now are \$2 million and \$4.5 million, respectively. In our earlier draft, which was circulated to this Committee, those figures were given at \$1.3 to \$1.5 million in the first place, and \$3.5 million in the second place.

Our estimated costs, then, have risen somewhat more than \$1 million, and that is due entirely to the fact that in the interval we have received fuller and more accurate information from a number of Governments which are furnishing forces as to the extra costs that they have so far incurred. In the light of that more complete and up-to-date information, we felt obliged, unfortunately, to readjust somewhat our earlier provisional estimates.

We then have endeavoured to bring the figures on status of payment and status of estimated expenditures as up-to-date as possible. For the most part, they are now on a 30 September basis.

Apart from those changes, and certain consequential changes of figures that result, I think there are no modifications of substance. There are a number of more or less editorial (I trust) improvements.

There is one paragraph to which attention should be called and which represents an addition to the earlier draft. That is paragraph 83, and it was inserted in order to make sure that a point of view which has been formally expressed by a number of representatives of participating Governments is adequately reflected.

Finally, we rearranged the order in which the summary of decisions is presented in paragraph lll. That is purely a change of order, not a change of substance.

I believe that really represents the totality of changes in the final text as compared with the earlier draft.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I think one might say that the implications of this additional paragraph 83, and of some of the changes, is to move the text still a little bit closer to the viewpoint of contributing Governments. That is the sum total of the intervening changes in Part III.

Mr. Cordier, may I ask whether you have any observations to make concerning this?

MR. CORDIER: Not on this part of it.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Well, on the text as a whole, is there anything to be said from your angle?

MR. CORDIER: I think that Mr. Turner covered all the changes that have been made. As you indicated, the adjustments have been made more in the direction of the most recent concerns of the participating Governments. A number of conversations have been held which have led to some adjustments, especially in Part III.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: It may be that this does not give rise to any immediate discussion. At all events, I imagine that the members of the Committee would like to read the text in its entirety again before having any discussion.

This, then brings us to the informal part of our meeting, for which there is no reason to have any record.

(discussion off the record)

The meeting rose at 11:45 a.m.