

Trips: Trips - 67

HS L 179:63



Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

ACC meeting, Geneva 1953

May 1

Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

— Common Services and Co-ordination of services

RESTRICTED

COORD-PREF/R.305
1 May 1953

ENGLISH ONLY

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION
Preparatory Committee
Twenty-third session
Geneva

COMMON SERVICES AND CO-ORDINATION OF SERVICES

1. After consideration of the last report on co-ordination of services (A/C.5/504), together with the twenty-fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/2287), the General Assembly adopted resolution 672 (VII) on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee (A/2324). This resolution, inter alia, invited the attention of the specialized agencies to the recommendations and suggestions made in the Advisory Committee's report, as well as to the views expressed by Members during the seventh session of the General Assembly (A/C.5/SR.370); and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the executive heads of the specialized agencies and with the Advisory Committee, to give continuing attention to the co-ordination of administrative procedures and services.
2. In implementation of these recommendations, the Secretary-General has initiated certain specific studies, with the co-operation of the specialized agencies. He proposes that the results of these studies might suitably be mentioned in the fourteenth report of the ACC, which would be available for the information of the Advisory Committee in October or November 1953. The following is a progress report of the studies which have been initiated:

GENEVA:

(a) Joint purchasing services and common supply services

3. The Advisory Committee, while finding the progress relating to joint purchasing services and common supply services satisfactory and "a step in the right direction", made certain comments on "impact upon the staffing of the individual purchasing services ..." and on the experimental nature of the proposed scheme. A report is being drafted in consultation with the specialized agencies concerned.

(b) Possibility of common printing services

4. The possibility of bringing about a further co-ordination of printing in Europe in the interests of efficiency and economy has been the subject of considerable study by United Nations Headquarters and the European Office, including the suggestion that arrangements might be broadened in such a way as to offer advantages for example to UNESCO in Paris. The European Office and ILO are also studying a suggestion that printing which of necessity must be done locally in Geneva could be undertaken by a common service under the administrative control of the ILO.

(c) Library co-ordination

5. The Advisory Committee thought that joint studies should be continued on the further development of the use by WHO of the United Nations Library - the results of these studies being made known to the other agencies with specialized libraries in Geneva. A report was accordingly submitted in March 1953 by the Director of the European Office showing certain developments in co-ordination between the libraries of these two organizations, and was circulated to all other agencies with specialized libraries in Geneva.

(d) Co-ordination of information services in Geneva

6. The Fifth Committee requested that, in line with the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the co-ordination of information services should be studied with particular attention.

7. It was decided that the co-ordination of information services in Geneva should be studied as a first step. A report has been prepared on the functions of the Geneva Information Centre of the United Nations including the services which are supplied to WMO and ITU, other United Nations organs and non-governmental organizations. The report also describes the arrangements for co-ordination existing between the United Nations Information Centre and the Information Divisions of ILO and WHO and the possibilities of extending them.

BANGKOK:

8. With regard to the survey of services in Bangkok, the Advisory Committee commented that it seemed reasonable to expect a consolidation of purchase and supply services and considered that a test should be made, through the delegation of the purchase, supply and other functions to one of the several organizations in the locality.

9. A report on the progress of discussions between ECAFE and the local representatives of UNICEF and FAO has been prepared. A predominant consideration

affecting these discussions is the fluid situation with regard to the future locations both of ECARF and of the FAO Regional Office, the site of which is to be reviewed at the next FAO Conference.

OTHER CENTRES:

10. The directors of the United Nations Information Centres in New Delhi, Cairo and Washington were asked to consult with the local representatives of specialized agencies and United Nations organs, and to report progress on the consideration of the possibilities of common premises, the development of common services and the continued study of local rates of employment.
11. In New Delhi, consultations have been held among representatives of the United Nations Information Centre, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and UNICEF. It was considered that a systematic survey was necessary to decide how far common premises and common services would be feasible. A committee composed of representatives of UNIC, FAO, UNESCO and WHO is initiating such a survey after which it is planned to sound out the appropriate government officials on problems of premises.
12. Similar consultations are being held in Cairo and Washington.

Subscription service for publications

13. The Advisory Committee drew attention (A/2287, para. 82; A/2324, para. 7) to the system adopted by UNESCO whereby a comprehensive subscription service for all publications is offered on a flat rate basis, and it was suggested that this system might be studied with advantage by other organizations.
14. The United Nations studied this matter and reported that in fact UNESCO had now abandoned its original system of the fixed price subscription covering all publications and had adopted the United Nations system of billing subscribers periodically for the actual value of the publications dispatched to them. The consideration leading to this procedure was the impossibility of forecasting the annual value of such publications.
