GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

TWELFTH SESSION

17 September 1957

(For use of information media -- not an official record)
ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWELFTH
REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly's rules of procedure stipulate that the provisional agenda for a regular session shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and communicated to the members of the UN at least 60 days before the opening of the session.

For the twelfth regular session of the General Assembly, scheduled to convene at UN Headquarters at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 17 September, a provisional agenda containing 59 items was issued on 19 July (Doc. A/3610).

Provisional Agenda

According to the rules of procedure, the provisional agenda of a regular session shall include: (a) a report by the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization; (b) reports from the principal organs of the United Nations as well as subsidiary organs of the Assembly and certain specialized agencies; (c) all items which the Assembly, at previous sessions, has ordered to be included; (d) all items proposed by other principal organs of the United Nations; (e) all items proposed by any member of the United Nations; (f) all items pertaining to the budget for the next financial year and the report on the accounts for the financial year; (g) all items which the Secretary-General deems it necessary to put before the Assembly; and (h) all items proposed, under the Charter, by states not members of the United Nations.

Supplementary items

A list of supplementary items was issued on 21 August (Doc. A/3546). A rule on supplementary items provides that any member or principal organ of the United Nations or the Secretary-General may, at least 30 days before the date fixed for opening of the regular session, request the inclusion of supplementary items on the agenda. These items are placed on a supplementary list, which is communicated to UN members at least 20 days before the date fixed for the opening of the session.

(more)
ANNEXED AGENDA

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Press Release GA/1545
30 August 1957

Additional items

Another rule allows the inclusion of additional items "of an important
and urgent character," proposed less than 30 days before the opening of a regular
session or during the session, providing the Assembly so decides by a majority of
the members present and voting. Such items may not be considered by the Assembly
until a committee has reported upon the question concerned and until a period of
seven days has elapsed after the inclusion of the item (unless the Assembly decides
otherwise by a two-thirds majority).

Items for the Assembly's twelfth session are listed below in the order
in which they appear in the provisional agenda and the supplementary list. This
is not necessarily the order in which they will appear on the agenda as adopted
by the Assembly. The notes on each item are given as background information.

ITEMS ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Thailand

The Chairman of the delegation from which the President of the previous sessi
was elected presides until the Assembly elects a President for the new session.
Prince Wan Waithayakon of Thailand was President of the Eleventh Regular Session.

2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation

Rule 6% of the Assembly's rules of procedure provides that, "immediately
after the opening of the first plenary meeting and immediately preceding the
closing of the final plenary meeting of each session of the General Assembly, the
President shall invite the representatives to observe one minute of silence
dedicated to prayer or meditation."

3. Appointment of Credentials Committee

This committee consists of nine members appointed by the Assembly at the
beginning of each session to examine the credentials of representatives and report
to the Assembly.

4. Election of the President

The President is elected by secret ballot and by a simple majority. There
are no nominations.

The following is a list of past Assembly Presidents: Paul-Henri Spaak
of Belgium (First Regular Session); Oswaldo Aranha of Brazil (First Special Session
and Second Regular Session); Jose Arce of Argentina (Second Special Session);
Herbert V. Evatt of Australia (Third Regular Session); Carlos P. Romulo
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of the Philippines (Fourth Regular Session); Nasrollah Entezar of Iran (Fifth Regular Session); Luis Padilla Nervo, of Mexico (Sixth Regular Session); Lester B. Pearson of Canada (Seventh Regular Session); Mme. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit of India (Eighth Regular Session); Eelco H. van Kleffens of the Netherlands (Ninth Regular Session); Jose Maza. of Chile (Tenth Regular Session); and Prince Wan Waithayakon of Thailand (Eleventh Regular Session and First and Second Emergency Special Sessions).

5. Constitution of the main committees and election of officers

At its Eleventh Session the Assembly decided to change the name of the ad hoc Political Committee, which had been established at each session since the Second to share the work of the First Committee, to that "Special Political Committee" and to confer a permanent character on that Committee.

Thus, the Assembly now consists of seven main committees, as follows:

The First (Political and Security); the Special Political Committee; the Second (Economic and Financial); the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural); the Fourth (Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories); the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary); and the Sixth (Legal). All 51 member nations are represented on each of the main committees, to which are referred items falling within their fields of competence.

The Assembly, acting directly in plenary meetings, deals with items which, for any reason, are not referred to a committee. The main committees discuss proposals in detail and report recommendations to the Assembly where final action is taken. A two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting is required in plenary meetings for resolutions on important questions, but voting in the committees is by simple majority, except to reopen discussion on a question, for which a two-thirds majority is needed.

Each main committee elects a chairman, a vice-chairman and a rapporteur. Meeting in turn as each of its main committees, the Assembly itself elects the chairman of the committees by secret ballot. Candidates may be nominated from the floor, but voting is not confined to those so nominated. The other officers are similarly elected, generally at the next meeting of each committee. Rule 103 of the Rules of Procedure provides that committee officers "shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience, and personal competence."

Chairmen of the main committees do not vote, but other members of their respective delegations may vote.
6. **Election of vice-presidents**

   The Assembly elects eight vice-presidents by simple majority and secret ballot. The President of the Assembly, the Vice-Presidents, and the chairmen of the main committees constitute the General Committee. In electing the vice-presidents, the Assembly pays regard to ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. Member countries are elected, not individuals. The heads of the delegations of the countries elected serve as vice-presidents.

7. **Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter**

   This article of the Charter requires the Secretary-General, with the consent of the Security Council, to notify the Assembly at each session of any matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security which are being dealt with by the Security Council.

8. **Adoption of the agenda**

   All the items submitted for inclusion in the agenda are considered by the General Committee, which reports to the Assembly with its recommendations. The Assembly adopts the agenda by a majority of members present and voting.

9. **Opening of the general debate**

   At the beginning of each session of the Assembly, there is a general debate in which the heads of delegations usually express the views of their countries on problems of common concern to the membership of the United Nations.

10. **Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization**

    The Charter requires the Secretary-General to report annually to the Assembly on the work of the Organization as a whole. The report for the period from 16 June 1956 to 15 June 1957 (Doc. A/5594) deals with all aspects of United Nations activity under eight broad headings -- questions concerning the Middle East, the Hungarian question, other political and security questions, economic and social developments, questions concerning trusteeship and non-self-governing territories, legal questions, development of public understanding, and administrative and budgetary questions.


    The report (Doc. A/5618) covers the period from 16 July 1956 to 15 July 1957 and was adopted by the Security Council at a closed meeting on 21 August 1957. The Charter requires the Council to submit such annual reports and as in other years, the report is a summary of resolutions approved or rejected and an account of the discussions.
of the broad lines of debate. The practice so far is for the Assembly simply to "take note" of the report.

12. Report of the Economic and Social Council
The report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly covers the period from 10 August 1956 to 2 August 1957. This includes the Council's work at its resumed 22nd session, the 23rd session, and the first part of the Council's 24th session. The report (Doc. A/5613, Suppl. 3) will be issued later.

13. Report of the Trusteeship Council
The Council's annual report (Doc. A/5995) on its activities under the international trusteeship system covers the period from 15 August 1956 to 12 July 1957. During this period, the Council held its sixth special session and its nineteenth and twentieth regular sessions.

The report describes the Council's annual review of conditions in the trust territories, with the exception of the strategic territory of the Pacific Islands, a report on which the United States, as administering power, submits to the Security Council. Other territories covered in the report are: British-administered Tanganyika and the Cameroons; French-administered Togoland and the Cameroons; Belgian-administered Ruanda-Urundi; Italian-administered Somaliland; New Zealand-administered Western Samoa; and Australian-administered New Guinea and Nauru.

14. Election of three non-permanent members of the Security Council
The Security Council consists of five permanent members (China, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States) and six non-permanent members elected by the Assembly for two-year terms.

The terms of Australia, Cuba and the Philippines expire at the end of 1957. Election is by two-thirds majority on a secret ballot. The Charter calls for attention to be paid to "the contribution of members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, and also to equitable geographical distribution." Retiring members are not eligible for immediate reelection.

The three other non-permanent Council members, which will serve until the end of 1958, are Colombia, Iraq and Sweden.
So far, the following non-permanent members have served on the Council:

- Argentina (1948-49)
- Australia (1946-47, 1956-57)
- Belgium (1947-48, 1955-56)
- Brazil (1946-47, 1951-52, 1954-55)
- Canada (1948-49)
- Chile (1952-53)
- Colombia (1947-48, 1953-54, 1957-58)
- Cuba (1949-50, 1956-57)
- Denmark (1953-54)
- Ecuador (1950-51)
- Egypt (1946, 1949-50)
- Greece (1952-53)
- India (1950-51)
- Iraq (1957-58)
- Lebanon (1953-54)
- Mexico (1946)
- Netherlands (1946, 1951-52)
- New Zealand (1954-55)
- Norway (1949-50)
- Pakistan (1952-53)
- Peru (1955-56)
- Philippines (1957)
- Poland (1946-47)
- Sweden (1957-58)
- Syria (1947-48)
- Turkey (1951-52, 1954-55)
- Ukrainian SSR (1948-49)
- Yugoslavia (1950-51, 1956)

15. **Election of six members of the Economic and Social Council**

Six of the 18 members of the Economic and Social Council retire each year after completing three-year terms of office. Election is by secret ballot, and a two-thirds majority is required. Retiring members are eligible for immediate reelection.

The present members of the Council are Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, USSR, United Kingdom, United States, and Yugoslavia.

The six members whose terms of office expire at the end of this year are Argentina, China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, and the Netherlands.

16. **Election of five members of the International Court of Justice**

The International Court consists of 15 members, no two of whom may be nationals of the same state. The judges are elected by the General Assembly and by the Security Council, proceeding independently but simultaneously.

Election, held by secret ballot, requires an absolute majority of votes in both organs. In the General Assembly, an absolute majority consists of more than half of the total number of possible electors, whether or not they are actually present and voting. (Liechtenstein, San Marino and Switzerland, which are parties to the Statute of the Court but not UN members, can participate in the General Assembly election in the same manner as UN members.) In the Security
Council, six votes constitute an absolute majority, and no distinction is made between permanent and non-permanent members.

Elections proceed on the basis of nominations made by national groups. The Statute of the Court requires electors to bear in mind "not only that the persons to be elected should individually possess the qualifications required, but also that in the body as a whole, the representation of the main forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems of the world should be assured."

The members of the Court are elected for nine years and may be re-elected.

The terms of the following judges will expire on 5 February 1958 and elections will be held for these seats:

Abdel Hamid Badawi, Vice-President of the Court (Egypt)
Bohdan Winiarski (Poland)
Milovan Zoricic (Yugoslavia)
John E. Read (Canada)
V.K. Wellington Koo (China)

(Judge Koo was elected on 11 January 1957 to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Judge Hsu Mo of China, whose term of office ran until 5 February 1958.)

Other Judges of the Court are: Green H. Hackworth, President of the Court (United States); Jose Gustavo Guerrero (El Salvador), Jules Basdevant (France), Helge Klaestad (Norway), Enrique C. Armand-Ugon (Uruguay), F.I. Kojevnikov (USSR), Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan (Pakistan), Sir Hersch Lauterpacht (United Kingdom), L.M. NOreno Quintana (Argentina) and Roberto Cordova (Mexico).

A list of candidates nominated by national groups for the elections will be issued as a document later.

17. Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

The Secretary-General, chief administrative officer of the United Nations, is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. The Secretary-General's term of office is five years.

The first Secretary-General was Trygve Lie of Norway, who assumed office on 2 February 1946. His term expired on 2 February 1951. He was continued in office by the fifth session of the General Assembly for a further period of three years. In a letter dated 10 November 1952, addressed to the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Lie submitted his resignation, suggesting at the same time that the President propose inclusion in the Assembly's agenda of an item (more)
entitled "Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations."

At the 617th meeting of the Security Council held on 31 March 1953, the representative of France proposed that the Council recommend to the Assembly the appointment of Dag Hammarskjold, Swedish Minister of State, as Secretary-General. This proposal was voted upon by secret ballot and was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The General Assembly, at its 423rd plenary meeting on 7 April 1953, considered the question of the appointment of the Secretary-General. The President stated that in taking up this item the Assembly accepted with great regret the resignation of Mr. Lie, to whom he expressed a sense of deep gratitude.

The Assembly unanimously adopted a Canadian draft resolution (Doc. A/L.150) providing that the terms of appointment of the second Secretary-General should be the same as those of the first Secretary-General (resolution 709(VII)).

Voting by secret ballot, the Assembly then adopted by 57 votes to 1, with 1 abstention, the recommendation of the Security Council for the appointment of Mr. Hammarskjold.

At the 426th plenary meeting on 10 April 1953, Mr. Hammarskjold took the oath of office. His term of office expires on 10 April 1958.


In pursuance of General Assembly Resolution 1115 (XI), of 11 January 1957, the Secretary-General's Advisory Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy entered into negotiations with the Preparatory Commission of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on a draft agreement to govern the relationship between the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency. A draft text of the agreement was considered and approved at a joint meeting of the Advisory Committee and the Preparatory Commission on 24 June 1957. In accordance with the above resolution, the text of the agreement (Doc. A/3620) is being submitted to the General Assembly for its approval.

(The draft agreement will also come before the first General Conference of the IAEA opening on 1 October in Vienna. The Agency came into existence on 29 July 1957 when the formal requirements to put its Statute into force were met. The Statute was approved on 26 October 1956 by an international conference held at UN Headquarters and was subsequently signed by 80 nations.)

(more)
19. Question of amending the United Nations Charter in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 108 of the Charter, to increase the number of non-permanent members of the Security Council and the number of votes required for decisions of the Council (decision of the General Assembly of 26 February 1957)

This item, sponsored during the eleventh Assembly session by 16 Latin American delegations and by the delegation of Spain, was discussed in plenary meetings at the last session. The Assembly, however, decided to postpone further consideration of the question until the twelfth regular session.

In an explanatory memorandum last year (Doc. A/3138), the 17 delegations noted that there had been a substantial increase in the membership of the United Nations. The memorandum also referred to the need for "maintaining a satisfactory distribution in the membership of some of the principal organs of the United Nations and to facilitating the participation of new members in the work of those organs."

The 17 countries sponsoring the item last year were Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain and Venezuela.

Under Article 23 of the Charter, the Security Council is now composed of five permanent members and six non-permanent members, the latter elected by the General Assembly for a period of two years. Under Article 27, seven affirmative votes are required for a decision by the Council.

Article 108 provides that amendments to the Charter shall come into force "when they have been adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the General Assembly and ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two-thirds of the members of the United Nations, including all the permanent members of the Security Council."

20. Question of amending the United Nations Charter in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 108 of the Charter, to increase the membership of the Economic and Social Council (decision of the General Assembly of 26 February 1957)

Similarly, this item was postponed by the eleventh session of the Assembly for consideration at the twelfth session. The question had been proposed for discussion at the eleventh session by 17 Latin American delegations (same as in Item 19, with the addition of Mexico) and by the delegation of Spain. The explanatory memorandum submitted last year by these 18 delegations (Doc. A/3139) was similar to the one for the preceding item.

Under Article 61 of the Charter, the Economic and Social Council consists of 18 members elected by the General Assembly.
21. Question of amending the Statute of the International Court of Justice, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 108 of the Charter of the United Nations and Article 69 of the Statute of the Court with respect to an increase in the number of judges of the International Court of Justice (Decision of the General Assembly of 26 February 1957)

As in the case of the previous two items, the General Assembly decided at its eleventh session to postpone consideration of this question until its twelfth session.

This item was submitted last year by Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti and Spain. Their explanatory memorandum (Doc. A/3140) was similar to those for the preceding two items.

Under Article 3 of the Statute of the International Court, there are 15 judges, no two of whom may be nationals of the same state. They are elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council, acting independently but concurrently, from a list of persons nominated by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration or by other national groups appointed by their governments (see Item 16).

22. Report of the Committee on Arrangements for a Conference for the Purpose of Reviewing the Charter (resolution 992 (X) of 21 November 1955)

The General Assembly decided at its 547th plenary meeting held on 24 November 1955 (resolution 992 (X)) to appoint a committee of all members of the United Nations to consider, in consultation with the Secretary-General, the question of fixing a time and place for a general conference to be held at an appropriate time to review the UN Charter and the organization and procedures of such a conference. The Committee was requested to report with its recommendations to the General Assembly at its twelfth session. The Secretary-General was requested, in paragraph 4 of the resolution, to complete the publication pursuant to General Assembly resolution 796 (VIII) of 23 November 1953 and to continue, prior to the twelfth session of the Assembly, to prepare and circulate supplements, as appropriate, to the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs.

On 3 June 1957, by 67 votes to none, with 9 abstentions, the Committee adopted a resolution sponsored by Brazil, Canada, Egypt, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Iran, Liberia and Panama (Doc. A/AC.81/L.1), in which the Committee inter alia decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its twelfth session that the Committee be kept in being and be requested to report, with recommendations, to the General Assembly not later than its fourteenth session. The resolution also requested the Secretary-General to continue the work envisaged in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 992 (X).
The Korean Question: report of the United Nations Commission on the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (resolutions 376 (V) of 7 October 1950 and 1010 A (XI) of 11 January 1957)

The UN Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea was established by the Assembly on 17 October 1950. It consists of Australia, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Turkey.

At its eleventh session, the Assembly reaffirmed that the objectives of the United Nations "are to bring about by peaceful means the establishment of a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a representative form of government, and the full restoration of international peace and security in the area."

The Assembly urged that continuing efforts be made to achieve these objectives in accordance with the fundamental principles for unification set forth by the nations participating in the Korean political conference, held in Geneva in 1954, and called upon UNCURK to continue its work. It also asked all states and authorities to facilitate this activity of the Commission.

The report of UNCURK will be issued later.

Regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments; conclusion of an international Convention (treaty) on the reduction of armaments and the prohibition of atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction: report of the Disarmament Commission (resolution 1011 (XI) of 14 February 1957)

On 14 February 1957 the General Assembly unanimously approved a resolution which recalled its resolution of 4 November 1954. The latter resolution, also adopted unanimously, called for a further effort to "reach agreement on comprehensive and coordinated proposals to be embodied in a draft international disarmament convention."

The February 1957 resolution welcomed "the progress made on certain aspects of the disarmament problem by the Disarmament Commission and its Subcommittee since the tenth session of the General Assembly," and requested the Commission to reconvene its Subcommittee "at an early date."

The resolution recommended that the Disarmament Commission and its Subcommittee "give prompt attention" to the various proposals that had been submitted to the United Nations and recommended further that the Commission (more)
request its Subcommittee to prepare a progress report for consideration by the Commission not later than 1 August 1957. Finally, the resolution invited the Commission "to consider the advisability of recommending that a special session of the General Assembly for a general disarmament conference be convened at the appropriate time."

The Subcommittee of the Disarmament Commission reconvened in London on 18 March 1957. Between that date and 1 August 1957 the Subcommittee held 56 meetings, in the course of which various proposals, working papers and memoranda were submitted. On 1 August 1957 the Subcommittee submitted its fourth report to the Disarmament Commission (Doc. DC/112). The report states that "the Subcommittee is continuing its work and will submit a further report."

25. Admission of new members to the United Nations (resolution 1017 (XI) of 25 November 1957)

During the eleventh session of the Assembly, five countries were admitted to membership in the United Nations: Sudan, Morocco and Tunisia, on 12 November 1956; Japan on 18 December 1956; and the new West African state of Ghana, on 8 March 1957.

The following membership applications have failed to obtain the recommendation of the Security Council: the Mongolian People's Republic, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Vietnam, and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

On 28 February 1957, the General Assembly adopted a two-part resolution (1017 (XI)) in connection with the membership applications of the Republic of Korea and of Vietnam. The texts of Part A and Part B were identical in substance. The Assembly noted that these two countries had been excluded from membership "because of the opposition of one of the permanent members of the Security Council," reaffirmed its determination that they were fully qualified for admission, and requested the Security Council to reconsider their applications "in the light of this determination and to report to the General Assembly as soon as possible."

The Security Council has not yet taken up this request of the Assembly.

Under Article 4 of the Charter, admission of a state to the United Nations is effected "by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council," the latter requiring an affirmative vote of seven members of the Council including the concurring votes of the permanent members.

At its last session, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (1018(XI)) directing the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to pursue its programs for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees, "bearing in mind the limitation imposed upon it by the extent of the contributions." The resolution also requested the host governments to cooperate and also to plan and carry out, in cooperation with the Director of the Agency, projects capable of supporting substantial numbers of refugees. The Assembly further decided to retain the rehabilitation fund and authorized the Director to make use of it for general economic development projects.

The operations of UNRWA are financed by voluntary contributions by United Nations members. On the Agency's rolls are more than 900,000 refugees, scattered over more than 100,000 square miles in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

The Director of UNRWA, Henry R. Labouisse, is assisted by an Advisory Commission consisting of Belgium, Egypt, France, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. The report of the Director to the twelfth session has not yet been circulated.


The United Nations Reconstruction Agency (UNKRA) was set up by the Assembly on 1 December 1950 to help relieve the suffering of the Korean people and repair the damage caused by the conflict in Korea. It is headed by the Agent-General, Lt. General John B. Coulter, who is assisted by an Advisory Committee consisting of Canada, India, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay. Funds for UNKRA's operations come from voluntary contributions by governments, non-members as well as members of the United Nations.

This year's report, which will be issued later, will cover the Agency's program and expenditures during the period from 1 July 1956 to 30 June 1957. An addendum to the report will bring it up to date as of 1 October this year.

28. Economic development of underdeveloped countries. Question of the establishment of a Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development:

At its tenth session, the Assembly invited member states of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies to submit their views on the establishment,
role, structure and operations of a Special UN Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED), and set up an ad hoc committee composed of government representatives to analyze the replies received and to submit an interim report to the Economic and Social Council at its 22nd session and to the Assembly at its eleventh session. A final report was requested for the Council's 23rd session and the Assembly's twelfth session.

At its eleventh session, the Assembly requested the ad hoc committee, on the basis of the views expressed by governments in their replies, to set forth the different forms of legal framework on which a Special UN Fund might be established and statutes drafted, and to indicate the types of projects which might be included in programs of operations of such a Fund. This supplementary report was to be submitted to the 24th session of the Council and the forthcoming session of the Assembly.

After discussing the final and supplementary reports of the ad hoc committee, the Economic and Social Council, at its 24th session, adopted by a vote of 15 in favor to 3 against (Canada, United Kingdom, United States) a resolution urging the twelfth session of the Assembly to decide to establish the Special United Nations Fund and recommending the setting up of a preparatory committee to take the necessary steps and to select a limited number of projects to be financed through voluntary contributions on an experimental basis pending full operation of the Fund.

The ad hoc committee originally comprised representatives of 16 governments: Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Norway, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, the United Kingdom, the United States, the USSR and Yugoslavia. The Assembly at its eleventh session increased the membership to 19 by adding Italy, Japan and Tunisia.

29. Programs of technical assistance
   (a) Report of the Economic and Social Council

At the summer session of the Economic and Social Council in 1957, the Technical Assistance Committee of the Council dealt with the activities of the Expanded Program and the UN Regular Program of Technical Assistance during 1956; the evaluation of the activities of the Expanded Program; and administrative, constitutional and organizational questions.

In 1956 the United Nations and seven specialized agencies carried out the largest technical assistance program to date, with contributions from 77 countries.
Aid was provided in 105 countries and territories. A total of $25.3 million was spent on direct field operations — about $4 million more than in 1955. The assistance included the services of 2,546 experts and the provision of 2,128 fellowships or study grants. For the first time, the report of the Technical Assistance Board contained a chapter on the evaluation of the technical assistance program.

(b) Confirmation of allocation of funds under the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance (resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950)

As is the customary annual procedure, the Technical Assistance Committee will be called upon to approve the Program of Technical Assistance for 1958 and the General Assembly will be required to confirm the allocation of funds.


The report of the UN High Commissioner, Auguste R. Lindt, covers the work of his Office from May 1956 to May 1957 (Doc. A/5889).

It describes the action taken on behalf of Hungarian refugees in Austria and Yugoslavia, the activities of the Office as regards the international protection of all refugees falling under the High Commissioner's mandate, and the program of the United Nations Refugee Fund (UNREF), including re-establishment as far as possible on a permanent basis and certain emergency aid. Annexed to the High Commissioner's report is the report of the fourth session of the UNREF Executive Committee, held at Geneva from 29 January to 4 February 1957.

After discussing the refugee problem at its 24th session, the Economic and Social Council unanimously adopted a three-part resolution. The first part takes note of the report prepared by the High Commissioner for transmission to the Assembly. The second part, concerning the continuation of the High Commissioner's Office, will be dealt with under agenda item 31. The third part of the Council's resolution recommends that the Assembly authorize the High Commissioner to make an appeal to members of the UN and specialized agencies for the purpose of raising funds needed for closing the refugee camps.

5 Review of the arrangements for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (resolution 727 (VIII) of 23 October 1955)

Originally, the Assembly established the High Commissioner's Office as of 1 January 1951, tentatively for three years. In October 1955, the Assembly decided to continue the Office for a period of five years from 1 January 1954 and also decided to review, not later than at its twelfth session, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner so as to determine whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1958.
The resolution on the refugee problem adopted at the Economic and Social Council's last session expresses the Council's view that the Office of the High Commissioner should be continued for a period of five years from 1 January 1959. It also recommends that the General Assembly review, not later than at its seventeenth session, the question of whether the Office should be continued beyond that period.

32. Recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples and nations to self-determination (decision of the General Assembly of 20 February 1957)

On 29 July 1955, the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution (586 D (XX)) containing three proposals for the establishment of new United Nations organs to deal with the right to self-determination. Two of these proposals had been recommended by the Commission on Human Rights and involved the creation of two commissions: one to conduct a full survey of the status of the permanent sovereignty of peoples and nations over their natural wealth and resources; the other to examine alleged denials of the right to self-determination if any 10 United Nations members so request. The Economic and Social Council, in transmitting the two proposals to the Assembly, had submitted a third which would have the Assembly establish an ad hoc commission on self-determination, consisting of five persons to be appointed by the Secretary-General, to conduct a thorough study of the concept of self-determination.

The proposals contained in the Council resolution were on the agenda of the General Assembly's tenth and eleventh sessions but were not discussed because of lack of time. On 20 February 1957, the Assembly decided to postpone consideration of the item to its twelfth session.

33. Draft International Covenants on Human Rights (decision of the General Assembly of 20 February 1957)

The draft covenants on human rights -- one on civil and political rights, the other on economic, social and cultural rights -- were prepared over a period of several years by the Commission on Human Rights, which completed its work on the texts in 1954. The two covenants, which include a total of 83 draft articles, deal with virtually every aspect of the individual's life in society.

In 1954, the Assembly's Third Committee held a general debate on the covenants. In 1955, the Committee adopted the preambles to the covenants and the first article, which are identical in both instruments. Article 1 deals with the right of peoples and nations to self-determination. At the eleventh session,
This draft convention was originally prepared by the UN Conference on Freedom of Information, held in Geneva in 1948, and revised in 1951 by an ad hoc committee of the Assembly. The revised text consists of a preamble and 19 articles.

In a resolution adopted in the spring of 1956, the Economic and Social Council noted with regret that repeated discussions on the draft convention in various UN organs "have failed to produce agreement on a formula which would describe permissible limitations on freedom of information." The Council stated that "in the absence of a wide measure of agreement on the basic problems involved, an international convention would be unlikely to prove an effective instrument."
The Council concluded that "further action at this stage on the draft convention on freedom of information would be unprofitable," and recommended that the Assembly "consider the draft convention at its twelfth session in the hope that conditions will be more favorable at that time."

Notes by the Secretary-General (Docs. A/3150 and A/3589) indicate the documents and resolutions relating to the draft convention on freedom of information.

55. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter: reports of the Secretary-General and of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories:
(a) Information on economic conditions

Under Article 73 e of the Charter, member states administering non-self-governing territories transmit annually to the Secretary-General statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to economic, social and educational conditions in the territories they administer. This applies to territories which have not been placed under trusteeship. Summaries and analyses of the information prepared by the Secretary-General are examined each year by the Assembly's Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.
At its eighth session held this summer, the Committee continued discussions of economic, social and educational conditions in the territories. Each year, it gives special attention to one of these subjects. This year's report (Doc. A/3647) to the Assembly is concerned with economic conditions. It covers such aspects as general economic trends, development plans, external trade, industrialization, rural economy, international and regional cooperation and possible effects of the European Common Market on the non-self-governing territories.

(b) Information on other conditions
In addition to devoting special attention to economic conditions, the Committee at its eighth session also considered social and educational conditions in the non-self-governing territories.

(c) General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information
As a result of the attainment of independence by Morocco, Tunisia and Ghana, the number of territories on which information is now furnished annually to the Secretary-General under Article 73 e of the Charter is 55. Last year, it was 58.

During the eighth session of the Committee on Information, attention was drawn to the fact that information due for the latest administrative year from the Belgian Government in respect of the Belgian Congo, and from the French Government in respect of territories administered by France, had not yet been received. The representative of France assured the Committee that the information on French territories would be furnished shortly. In the case of the Belgian Congo, the Committee was informed by its Chairman, Jan Vixseboxse (Netherlands), who had been requested to take up the matter, that the Belgian delegation to the United Nations had "no communication to make." The Committee decided to bring the matter to the notice of the General Assembly. Since 1953, Belgium has not attended the meetings of the Committee.

The Committee was informed by the Australian representative that his government intends to transmit information under Article 73 e on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, located in the Indian Ocean southwest of Java.

(d) Offers of study and training facilities under resolutions 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954 and 951 (X) of 8 November 1955
The Committee on Information noted that since May 1955, 15 member countries had offered 247 scholarships enabling students from trust and non-self-governing territories to study abroad. A total of 125 applications for (more)
Committee continued discussions in the territories. Each report is a review of economic conditions, the educational conditions

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scholarships had been received. During the period 26 July 1956 to 28 June 1957, awards of 12 scholarships had been made.

The offering states, listed according to the date of receipt of their offers, were: USSR, Yugoslavia, Philippines, Turkey, Burma, Poland, Iran, Thailand, Mexico, Romania, Greece, Tunisia, United States, Czechoslovakia and India. The representative of Ceylon informed the Committee that his government had decided to offer three scholarships for students from non-self-governing territories. The details of the offers were being transmitted to the Secretary-General.

The Committee adopted a resolution requesting members submitting their observations on the qualifications of the candidates and members offering facilities to "consider the applications with all possible speed." The resolution requested the Secretary-General to give any assistance that may be sought by members concerned and by the applicants, and invited the offering states to inform the Secretary-General of the use made of the scholarships awarded.

(e) Methods of reproducing summaries of information concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (resolution 1052 (XI) of 20 February 1957)

Up to 1956 the summaries of information from non-self-governing territories each year had been printed and put on sale with other UN publications. Last year the Secretary-General proposed a new system of reproduction, which provided that "in two years out of three, the printed volumes of summaries should be replaced by offset fascicules, with consequent savings of the mimeographed documents and the cost of printing."

The eleventh Assembly considered that the new system should be regarded as an experiment without prejudice to the future. It also considered that there should be no lowering in the standards of reproduction or distribution of information from the non-self-governing territories. The Secretary-General was invited to submit a report on this matter to the twelfth session so that the Assembly might make appropriate arrangements for the future.

36. Election to fill vacancies in the membership of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (resolution 953 (X) of 8 November 1955)

The Committee on Information, which examines the summaries and analyses prepared by the Secretary-General of the information furnished on non-self-governing territories under Article 73 e of the Charter, is composed of members transmitting information and an equal number of non-administering members elected by the Fourth Committee on behalf of the Assembly.

(more)
At present, the committee comprises Australia, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States (administering members) and Ceylon, China, Guatemala, India, Iraq, Peru and Venezuela (non-administering members).

The term of Peru expires in 1957 and elections will be held to fill this vacancy.

37. The future of Togoland under French administration: report of the Trusteeship Council (resolution 1046 (X) of 23 January 1957)

France proposed last year the termination of the trusteeship agreement for Togoland under French administration. It explained that it did so on the basis of further political reforms which, in its belief, satisfied both the requirements of the trusteeship system and the aspirations of the overwhelming majority of the population of Togoland. Neither the Trusteeship Council nor the General Assembly, however, proved able to agree that the conditions under which the termination of the agreement could be supported had as yet been established.

The French proposal was not pressed. The Assembly, while recognizing that a very significant step had in fact been taken in the achievement of the objectives of trusteeship, decided, at the invitation of the administering authority, to send a commission to the territory to examine the situation. The commission, comprising representatives Canada, Denmark, Guatemala, Liberia, the Philippines and Yugoslavia, spent some four weeks last June in Togoland. It approved its report (Doc.T/1356 and Add.1 and 2) on 25 July.

In the meantime, the Council at its 19th session last spring examined the 1955 annual report submitted by France on its administration of Togoland, together with more recent information concerning notably the application and further evolution of the new statute for the territory. It also heard the submissions of a Togolese petitioner, Sylvanus E. Olympia, on behalf of one of the political parties, the Comité de L'Unité Togolaise.

The Council decided, however, to undertake a more detailed examination of political advancement of the territory when it received the report of the commission to Togoland; consequently, it did not formulate any conclusions or recommendations on political matters at that stage, although it did approve a number of conclusions and recommendations on economic, social and educational matters.

At the 20th session, the Council decided to hold a special session on 12 September/12 when the report of the UN commission to Togoland would be available, to consider further the future of French Togoland. The Assembly resolution on Togoland had requested the Council to study the question, taking into account the report of the commission, and to transmit the results of its study to the Assembly at the twelfth session.
38. **Question of South West Africa:**

(a) **Report of the Committee on South West Africa (resolution 749 A (VIII) of 28 November 1953)**

In 1953, the Assembly established a seven-member committee to examine, within the scope of the former League of Nations Mandates System, annual reports and petitions on conditions in South West Africa. It invited the Union of South Africa, to which the administration of the territory was entrusted under the mandate, to submit annual reports on its administration of South West Africa and to cooperate with the committee in examining the reports. However, if no report was furnished by South Africa, the committee was to examine available information on conditions in the territory.

South Africa has consistently maintained that the mandate has lapsed and that, with the demise of the League, it recognized no other international obligations in respect to its administration of South West Africa. The International Court of Justice, when asked its opinion by the Assembly, stated in 1950 that the Union continued to have international obligations in regard to South West Africa, including the submission of annual reports and the forwarding of petitions to the United Nations.

The Committee on South West Africa was established for an interim procedure of supervision after negotiations with the Union of South Africa had failed to arrive at an acceptable formula for implementing the Court’s opinion. Thus far, South Africa has still declined to cooperate with the committee. Under these circumstances, the committee has had to base its examination of conditions in South West Africa on information gathered by the Secretariat as far as possible from official sources.

In its latest report (Doc.A/626) on the situation in South West Africa, the committee asserted that "the continued and increasing political, social and economic pressures and restrictions imposed in all walks of life on the vast majority of the inhabitants and especially on the indigenous African population reveal, in the committee's opinion, a policy intended to give paramount importance to the interests of the population of European origin, to maintain and reinforce the entrenchment of government control in the hands of this minority, and to secure as an ultimate goal the incorporation of the territory into the Union of South Africa..."

The committee considered that the Assembly should "weigh the gravity of the present situation and consider the need for acting without further delay... to safeguard the well-being... of the inhabitants... and to preserve the international status of the territory pending its being placed under the international trusteeship system."
Study of legal action to ensure the fulfillment of the obligations assumed by the Mandatory Power under the Mandate for South West Africa: special report of the Committee on South West Africa (resolution 1060 (XI) of 26 February 1957)

Renewed efforts were made by the eleventh Assembly to seek a solution of the problem of the international status of the territory. One of the resolutions requested the Committee on South West Africa to study the question as to what legal action was open to the organs of the United Nations or to its members, or to the former members of the League of Nations, acting individually or jointly, to ensure that the Union of South Africa fulfilled the obligations assumed by it under the mandate, pending the placing of the territory under trusteeship.

The special report of the committee on this matter is contained in Document A/3625.

Election of three members of the Committee on South West Africa (resolution 1061 (XI) of 26 February 1957)

The Committee on South West Africa, formerly comprising Brazil, Mexico, Pakistan, Syria, Thailand, the United States and Uruguay, the addition of two more members at the eleventh Assembly session. The new members were Ethiopia and Finland.

In deciding to increase the committee's membership to nine, the Assembly also agreed that one-third of the members shall be "renewed" each year, the nominations to be made by the Fourth Committee. The Assembly resolution, however, did not specify which three members should retire in 1957. The question thus far has not been determined by the Committee on South West Africa which concluded its recent series of meetings on 2 August.

Question of the frontier between the trust territory of Somaliland under Italian administration and Ethiopia: reports of the Governments of Ethiopia and of Italy (resolution 1068 (XI) of 26 February 1957)

Emphasizing the "increasing importance" of achieving a final settlement without delay of the frontier question between Somaliland and Ethiopia, the General Assembly at its eleventh session recommended that the Governments of Italy and Ethiopia "continue and complete negotiations on the entire frontier, including those sectors not yet discussed, and report on the progress of their negotiations to the General Assembly at its twelfth session."

Underlining the urgency of the matter, the Assembly recalled that Somaliland is scheduled to attain its independence on 2 December 1960 and that, in accordance with the trusteeship agreement, the administering authority is required to submit to the Trusteeship Council, before 2 June 1959, a plan for the orderly transfer of all functions of government to a duly constituted independent Somaliland
The Assembly expressed the opinion that, if the negotiations between Italy and Ethiopia should fail to achieve "substantial results" by the twelfth session, it would be necessary for them to avail themselves of the procedure laid down by the Assembly in a 1950 resolution (392 (V)) which envisaged mediation as the next step in the event of disagreement.

40. Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1957

A report on supplementary expenses not included in the regular budget appropriations for 1957 will be submitted by the Secretary-General in the course of the Assembly's session.

41. Budget estimates for the financial year 1958

The estimated gross budget (Doc.A/3600) prepared by the Secretary-General totals $54,782,500. Income is estimated at $5,050,000, leaving a net budget of $51,732,500. The 1926 estimate represents an increase of $3,966,800 over the approved appropriations for 1957 totaling $50,815,700.

The Secretary-General's estimates have been reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions which has submitted a report (Doc.A/3624) recommending an over-all reduction of $1,052,800 in the figure proposed by the Secretary-General.

42. Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly

(a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Three of the nine members of this committee retire each year (Doc.A/3583). Members whose terms of office expire at the end of 1957 are Thanassis Agnides (Greece), Eduardo Carrizosa (Colombia) and Igor V. Chechetkin (USSR).

(b) Committee on Contributions

This is a 10-member committee whose members also retire by rotation and are eligible for reappointment (Doc.A/3582). Members whose terms of office expire at the end of 1957 are Rene Charron (France), Arthur S. Lall (India), Josué Saenz (Mexico) and G. F. Saksin (USSR).

(c) Board of Auditors

The Board consists of three members (Doc.A/3581). At each regular session, the Assembly appoints one auditor to take office from 1 July of the following year for a three-year term. This election this year will be to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of the Auditor-General of Norway.

(d) Investments Committee: confirmation of the appointment made by the Secretary-General

The Investments Committee consists of three members appointed by the
Secretary-General after consultation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The appointment is subject to the approval of the Assembly. The vacancy caused by the expiration of the three-year term of Leslie Rounds (Chairman), formerly First Vice-President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, is to be filled.

(e) United Nations Administrative Tribunal
The Tribunal is composed of seven members appointed by the Assembly for three-year terms (Doc. A/5586). Those members whose terms of office expire at the end of 1957 are Francisco A. Forteza (Uruguay) and Bror Arvid Sture Petren (Sweden).

(f) United Nations Staff Pension Committee
This committee consists of three members and three alternates elected by the General Assembly, three members and three alternates appointed by the Secretary-General, and three members and three alternates elected by the staff of the UN Secretariat. The term of office of the present members elected by the Assembly will expire on 31 December 1959.

Report of the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds
Certain of the activities of the UN and the specialized agencies are financed by voluntary contributions of member governments. Such activities, not provided for in the regular budgets of the UN or the agencies, include the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance, the United Nations Children's Fund, the UN Refugee Fund and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

To assist in obtaining funds for these programs, the Assembly during its eleventh session again requested the President to appoint a Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds to serve until the close of the twelfth Assembly session. The President accordingly appointed a committee composed of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, France, Lebanon, New Zealand, Pakistan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Assembly also decided to convene, during its twelfth session, an ad hoc committee of the whole Assembly, for the announcement of voluntary contributions to UNRWA and UNRWA. There will be a separate meeting for each of the two refugee programs.

The report will be issued later.

(more)
44. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions

The costs of the United Nations are borne by all member states. It is the responsibility of the Assembly to determine, on the basis of a report from its Committee on Contributions, the scale of assessments -- expressed in percentages of the total cost -- for all the members.

The report will be issued later.

45. United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund:
(a) Annual report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

A report on the eighth session of the Joint Staff Pension Board is contained in Doc. A/36/11, which will be issued later. The financial statement for the year ended 30 September 1956 shows that the principal of the Fund increased from $51,740,712 to $60,264,756 during the year. Active membership at the same date was 9,328.

Participants from the UN and the six specialized agencies showed an increase of 327 from 9,001. The report contains recommendations from the Joint Staff Pension Board to the Assembly to amend the Pension Fund regulations in certain respects.

(b) Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board on the fourth actuarial valuation of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund as of 30 September 1956

The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board makes a review approximately every three years of the actuarial position of the Fund.

In his fourth actuarial valuation, the consulting actuary commented upon the favorable experience of the Fund to date. The Board, in its report (Doc. A/36/42) concurs in the recommendation of the consulting actuary that the rate of contributions remain at 21 per cent of pensionable remuneration.

The consulting actuary also made a review of the basic tables of the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund and recommended certain revisions which were adopted by the Board, effective 1 January 1958.

46. Audit reports relating to expenditure by specialized agencies of technical assistance funds allocated from the Special Account (resolution 519 A (VI) of 12 January 1952)

In 1952 the Assembly approved financial arrangements for the allocation of funds contributed by governments for the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance. Under these arrangements $10,000,000 of contributions received for the second financial period were allocated on an agreed basis to the various participating organizations. The balance was placed in a Special Account for...
allocation by the Technical Assistance Board.

The audit reports called for under this item relate to expenditure by specialized agencies of funds from the Special Account.

47. Review of audit procedures of the United Nations and the specialized agencies (resolution 971 (X) of 15 December 1955)

In 1955, the Assembly asked the Secretary-General to submit to the twelfth session a report on a review to be made of audit procedures of the UN and the specialized agencies.

The Secretary-General's report (Doc. A/3584) has been considered by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions which has also submitted a report (Doc. A/3615), to be considered in the course of the Assembly session.

The Secretary-General states that the executive heads of the specialized agencies have advised that the agencies continue to be satisfied with their present audit arrangements. The Board of Auditors is also of the opinion that, for the present, the existing arrangements for audit are satisfactory.

Insofar as the UN is concerned, the present audit arrangements have offered only one main disadvantage: the number of member countries situated within a reasonable distance from Headquarters, and able to provide the large audit staff required for some ten weeks in every year, is somewhat limited.

The Secretary-General recommends that changes in audit procedures be contemplated only if circumstances should arise which dictate a departure from the present system. The Advisory Committee shares the Secretary-General's view.

48. Administrative and budgetary coordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies: reports of the Secretary-General and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

A separate report on the 1958 administrative budgets of eight of the 11 specialized agencies will be submitted by the Advisory Committee during the Assembly session.

In its fifth report to the session (Doc. A/3624), the Advisory Committee states that the total of the 1958 budgets of the specialized agencies, as approved or proposed, amounts to $48,919,509 making, with the figure submitted by the UN Secretary-General, an aggregate of $103,701,809 which the member states of these eight specialized agencies and the United Nations will be called upon to appropriate for 1958.
49. Financial reports and accounts, and reports of the Board of Auditors:
   (a) United Nations, for the financial year ended 31 December 1956
       The report (Doc. A/3590) shows that obligations incurred for 1956 amounted to $50,508,095 compared with total appropriations of $50,683,350. At the end of the year there was an unobligated balance of $175,255. Receipts from miscellaneous income exceeded the anticipated amounts by $697,626. Thus, total income credited for the financial year represented by members' contributions and miscellaneous income, $51,380,976, exceeded the total of obligations incurred by $872,188.

   (b) United Nations Children's Fund, for the financial year ended 31 December 1956
       The financial report on UNICEF (Doc. A/3591) shows that the principal of the Fund on 31 December 1956 amounted to $33,594,412, representing an increase of $1,814,092 in the level of the Fund during the year.

   (c) United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency, for the financial year ended 30 June 1957
       The report will be issued later.

   (d) United Nations Refugee Fund, for the financial year ended 31 December 1956
       The report (Doc. A/3622) shows that as of 31 December 1956 the surplus in the Fund amounted to $1,881,100, representing money available for approved projects. Payments during the year amounted to $1,240,697. An additional sum of $2,195,177 was obligated.

50. Offer by the Government of Chile of land in Santiago to be used as office site for the United Nations and other international organizations (item proposed by the Secretary-General)
       The Chilean Government, on 5 February 1957, authorized the President of Chile to transfer land for the purpose of constructing a building to serve as office space for the UN and certain other organizations.

       In an explanatory memorandum (Doc. A/3641), the Secretary-General reported that he is discussing with the Government of Chile the details of the offer. A further report on the question will be submitted for consideration during the twelfth session.

(more)
51. Personnel questions:

(a) United Nations salary, allowance and benefits system: outstanding questions from the eleventh session

The Secretary-General will submit a report on various personnel questions outstanding from the eleventh Assembly.

(b) Question of the geographical distribution of the staff of the Secretariat of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General (resolution 1097 (XI) of 27 February 1957)

The Secretary-General will submit a report on the changes which have occurred in the geographical distribution of the staff of the Secretariat during the year ending 31 August 1957.

(c) Question of the proportion of fixed-term staff: report of the Secretary-General (Doc. A/5558, paragraph 124)

In paragraph 124 of the above document, the Assembly asked that the matter of the proportion of fixed-term staff should form the subject of an annual review by the Fifth Committee.

The report on this subject by the Fifth Committee will be issued later.

(d) Review of the staff regulations and of the principles and standards progressively applied thereto: report of the Secretary-General (A/BUR/141, paragraph 2)

In 1953 the General Assembly decided to undertake at its tenth session, in 1955, a review both of the principles and standards progressively developed and applied by the Secretary-General in his implementation of the Staff Regulations and of the Staff Regulations themselves.

In 1955 the Assembly concurred in a proposal by the Secretary-General that the review should be postponed from the tenth to the twelfth Assembly session.

(e) Proposal to amend article 9 of the Statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal: report of the Secretary-General (A/5016, paragraphs 36-38)

Article 9 of the Statute of the Administrative Tribunal relates to the award of compensation by the Tribunal. At the Assembly's tenth session, Australia proposed certain amendments to this Article as a clarification of the intent of the General Assembly.

In a report (Doc. A/3629), the Secretary-General expresses the belief that the precise amount of compensation payable under the Article should be left to the discretion of the Tribunal within the limits set in the present text.

(more)
52. United Nations International School: report of the Secretary-General (resolution 1192 (XI) of 27 February 1957)

The United Nations School was organized in 1949 as an extension of the International Nursery School founded in 1947 at Lake Success by members of the UN Secretariat. The governing body is the Board of Trustees, elected by the Association for the UN International School, and representatives of the many different cultural groups in the UN. Incorporated by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, the School has obtained from it a permanent charter for both primary and secondary education.

At its eleventh session, the Assembly considered a report by the Secretary-General to the effect that during 1956 intensive efforts were made to find suitable school premises near UN Headquarters. More than 20 possibilities were considered but the Board of Trustees concluded that the only logical and desirable location for the school would be on the Headquarters site and, consequently, submitted proposals to that effect to the Secretary-General. The trustees expressed confidence that, if authorization to build was given, the necessary support, financial as well as material and services, would be forthcoming from voluntary sources.

The Assembly endorsed the view that suitable accommodations in a convenient location were urgently needed by the school and requested the Secretary-General to submit his proposed study of the suggestions of the Board of Trustees to the twelfth Assembly session.

The Secretary-General's report will be issued later.

53. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its ninth session

The International Law Commission held its ninth session in Geneva from 23 April to 28 June 1957. Its report (Doc. A/5623) reviews work accomplished at the session:

In 1952 the General Assembly requested the Commission to undertake, as soon as possible, the codification of "diplomatic intercourse and immunities" and to treat it as a priority topic.

At its 1954 session, the Commission initiated work on the subject and appointed a special rapporteur to prepare a report containing a draft for the codification of the law relating to the subject. The report was submitted to the Commission's 1956 session, but consideration was postponed until the next session.

(more)
The Commission devoted the greater part of its 1957 session to the matter and completed work on 37 draft articles concerning diplomatic intercourse and immunities (Chapter II of Doc. A/5623). The draft will now be submitted to the UN members for comments and, in the light of these comments, the Commission will prepare at its 1958 session a final draft, with a full commentary.

Arbitral procedure

Following completion of the draft convention on arbitral procedure at the Commission's 1953 session, the General Assembly decided in 1953 that the draft should be transmitted, together with the observations made in the Sixth Committee that year, to the member countries for comments.

The tenth Assembly invited the Commission to consider these comments and report to the Assembly's 1958 session. It also decided to include in the provisional agenda of the 13th session the problem of the desirability of convening an international conference to conclude a convention on arbitral procedure.

The International Law Commission, at its 1957 session, after taking provisional decisions on certain points, adjourned the matter for final consideration and report at its next session.

Other matters covered in Chapter IV of the Commission's report, include such questions as cooperation with other bodies, planning of future work of the Commission, emoluments of the members of the Commission, the date and place of the next session.

Question of defining aggression: report of the Special Committee (resolution 895 (IX) of 4 December 1954; A/BUR/143, paragraph 4)

The question of defining aggression arose in the Assembly in 1950, and the subject was referred to the International Law Commission for further study.

In 1951, the Commission decided that it was undesirable to define aggression by a detailed enumeration of aggressive acts since no enumeration would be exhaustive. A proposed general definition in abstract terms was also rejected by the Commission. However, the Commission decided to embody a general, but not exhaustive, definition of aggression in the draft Code of Offences Against the Peace and Security of Mankind which it had been asked to prepare for the Assembly.

After exhaustive discussions in its Legal Committee, the Assembly in 1952 set up a Special Committee of 15 members to prepare draft definitions of aggression or draft statements on the notion of aggression. That Committee met in 1953 but did not reach any substantive decisions.
Press Release GA/1545
30 August 1957

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In 1954, the Assembly established a second Special Committee of 19
members to prepare a draft definition of aggression.

In 1956, shortly before the opening of the eleventh Assembly, the
Special Committee held a four-week session at Headquarters and decided not to
put the draft definitions before it to a vote but to transmit them with the
Committee's report (Doc. A/3574) to the Assembly. The Committee expressed the
hope that its work would "constitute a useful contribution toward the solution
of the problem of defining aggression."

The eleventh Assembly, on 15 November 1956, decided to postpone until
the twelfth session consideration of the question.

Draft code of offences against the Peace and Security of Mankind
(resolution 897 (IX) of 4 December 1954; A/BUR/143, paragraph 4)

In 1954, the Assembly considered that the draft code of offences against
the Peace and Security of Mankind, as formulated by the International Law
Commission, raised problems closely related to that of the definition of
aggression. It decided, therefore, to postpone further examination of the draft
code until the Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression had
submitted its report (see item 54). The eleventh Assembly, on 15 November 1956,
decided to postpone until the twelfth session its consideration of the report
(Doc. A/3574).

The five-article code lists such offences as acts or threats of
aggression, preparation for the use of armed force against another country;
encouragement of activities calculated to foment civil strife or terrorist
activities in another country; crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and
violation of the laws or customs of war.

The code places full responsibility upon the individual who commits
an offence. One of its articles reads: "The fact that a person acted as head
of state or as a responsible government official does not relieve him from
responsibility for committing any of the offences defined in this code."

International criminal jurisdiction (resolution 898 (IX) of
14 December 1954; A/BUR/143, paragraph 4)

The Assembly in 1948 invited the International Law Commission "to study
the desirability and possibility of establishing an international judicial organ
for the trial of persons charged with genocide or other crimes over which juris-
diction will be conferred upon that organ by international conventions."

(more)
In 1950, the Assembly set up a special committee to prepare proposals on the establishment and statute of the proposed court. The special committee in 1951 drew up a draft statute, which was revised by a second special committee in 1953. The main provisions of the revised draft are: the court will be a permanent body composed of 15 independent judges elected for a period of nine years; the court will be competent to judge "natural persons whether they are constitutionally responsible under public officials or private individuals;" no person shall be tried before the court unless jurisdiction has been conferred upon the court by the state or states of which he is a national and by the state or states in which the crime is alleged to have been committed; the court will have power to issue warrants of arrest; the accused shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty; he shall have a fair trial; final judgments will require a majority vote of the judges participating in the trial, and seven judges will constitute a quorum.

In 1954, the Assembly decided to postpone consideration of the question until it had taken up the report of the Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression and the draft code of offences against the peace and security of mankind (see agenda items 54 and 55). The eleventh Assembly, on 15 November 1956, decided to postpone until the twelfth session its consideration of the report (Doc. A/3574).

57. Effects of atomic radiation (item proposed by Czechoslovakia)

Inclusion of this item in the agenda of the twelfth session of the General Assembly was requested in a cablegram addressed by the Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia to the Secretary-General on 12 July 1957 (Doc. A/3614).

An explanatory memorandum (Doc. A/3614/Add.1), which was received on 26 August, stresses the harmful effects which atomic radiation resulting from nuclear tests may have on the health of mankind, and particularly the genetic injuries which may be caused to future generations.

Recalling that the tenth session of the Assembly had established (by resolution 913 (X)) a Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and noting that this Committee's report is to be submitted only to the thirteenth session of the Assembly, the memorandum suggests that it would serve "a highly useful purpose" if the committee and the specialized agencies concerned were to continue to give "intensive study" to the question of the effects of atomic radiation. The memorandum also urges that consideration be given to the possibility of convening "a broad scientific conference on the effects of atomic radiation."
radiation which would serve as a forum where men of science would state their views on the issues related to this problem."

The memorandum concludes that the United Nations "cannot remain inactive in the face of the continued and growing hazard of radioactive radiation," and expresses the opinion that it would be appropriate and opportune for the UN "to take immediate steps capable of preventing any further increase in the levels of radioactive radiation."

54. Cyprus: (a) Application under the auspices of the United Nations, of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples in the case of the population of the Island of Cyprus; (b) Violations of human rights and atrocities by the British Colonial Administration against the Cypriots (item proposed by Greece)

The inclusion of this item on the agenda of the General Assembly's twelfth session was requested by the Permanent Representative of Greece in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General on 12 July 1957. The explanatory memorandum has not yet been circulated.

The Cyprus question was first brought before the Assembly in 1954 when the Greek Government requested that the people of Cyprus "be allowed to express themselves on their future." The Assembly considered it inappropriate to adopt a resolution on the question at that time and decided, by 50 votes to none, with 8 abstentions, not to consider the item further.

Greece again requested inscription of the item on the agenda in 1955. Acting upon a recommendation of its General Committee, the Assembly, by 28 votes to 22 with 10 abstentions, decided not to include the Cyprus item on its agenda.

In 1956, Greece once again requested that the item be placed on the agenda of the General Assembly. On 26 February 1957 the Assembly, by a vote of 57 to none with 1 abstention, expressed "the earnest desire that a peaceful, democratic and just solution will be found in accord with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and the hope that negotiations will be resumed and continued to this end."

59. The Question of Algeria (item proposed by Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen)

In their explanatory memorandum (Docs. A/3617 and A/3617/Add.1) the 22-sponsoring delegations note the "genuine and strenuous efforts" made at the eleventh session of the General Assembly "to formulate accurately the consensus of opinion" on the Algerian question. This consensus, the memorandum declares,
was "clearly in favor of a settlement of the Algerian issue being arrived at in accordance with the principles of the Charter and taking into account the basic needs for a peaceful, democratic and just solution." Thus, the memorandum recalls, the Assembly on 18 February 1957 unanimously adopted a resolution which contained an operative paragraph reading: "Expresses the hope that, in a spirit of cooperation, a peaceful, democratic and just solution will be found, through appropriate means, in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

The memorandum of the sponsoring delegations goes on to say that since then there has been no indication from member states that any progress has been made toward the achievement of the purposes of that Assembly resolution. On the contrary, the memorandum charges, suffering and loss of human life in Algeria continue and have increased.

Under these circumstances, the memorandum declares, "it cannot but be...the wish of the General Assembly to take up again the consideration of the question of Algeria."

1. The General Assembly, recognizing the urgent need to prevent a nuclear war, is unanimous in calling on the nuclear military powers to exercise the historic responsibilities devolving upon them under the Charter to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

2. The General Assembly, concerned at the growing danger of a nuclear war, is unanimous in calling on member states to reaffirm their commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations and to reaffirm their adherence to and commitment to the Charter of the United Nations.

3. The General Assembly, deeply concerned at the growing danger of a nuclear war, is unanimous in calling on the various groups of the General Assembly to take up the question of a nuclear war and to make recommendations to the General Assembly for the purpose of preventing a nuclear war.
The question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Union of South Africa: item proposed by Bolivia, Costa Rica, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Sudan and Uruguay

This item has been before the General Assembly since 1952. In submitting the item for the agenda this year (Doc. A/3628), the six delegations noted that the resolution adopted at the last Assembly session called upon the South African Government, among other things, "to reconsider its position and revise its policies in the light of the obligations and responsibilities under the Charter and in the light of the principles subscribed to and the progress achieved in other contemporary multi-racial societies." No communication had been received since then, they stated, indicating that "steps have been taken or are contemplated by the Union of South Africa to carry forward the purposes of the resolution." On the contrary, additional apartheid measures had been taken.

In the circumstances, the six delegations said that the Assembly "will undoubtedly wish to give this matter its renewed consideration in order to prevent further deterioration of the situation" and to bring about a settlement in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.

Collective action to inform and enlighten the peoples of the world as to the dangers of the arms race, and particularly as to the destructive effects of nuclear weapons: item proposed by Belgium

On 9 August, Belgium requested inclusion of this item on the agenda. An attached draft resolution (Doc. A/3630) proposes that the Secretary-General submit to the thirteenth session of the Assembly a plan for such a collective publicity campaign, to include "elementary information concerning nuclear weapons, their destructive effects, and the impracticability of any military or civil defense against them." In drawing up this plan, the Secretary-General would be assisted by an advisory committee composed of experts of different nationalities.

Treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa: reports of the Governments of India and of Pakistan: item proposed by India and by Pakistan

This question has been before the General Assembly since 1946. At the last session, the Assembly noted that India and Pakistan had expressed readiness to pursue negotiations with the South African Government to seek a solution, but that the South African Government had not yet agreed to do so. (more)
The parties were urged to enter into negotiations, and were invited to report as appropriate, jointly or separately, to the General Assembly.

Both India (Doc. A/3643) and Pakistan (Doc. A/3645) requested inclusion of the item in the agenda so that they can submit reports to the Assembly at the forthcoming session. Both countries stated, in their explanatory memorandums, that they had requested the South African Government to enter into negotiations, but had received no response. India's memorandum went on to say that, meanwhile, the positions of persons of Indian origin in South Africa "has continued to deteriorate." The Government of India felt sure that the Assembly would want to "take further steps to implement its resolutions" on this problem "and to promote a peaceful and just solution."

The question of West Irian (West New Guinea): item proposed by Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

This item was first brought before the Assembly in 1954 by Indonesia. The resolution recommended by the First Committee at that session failed to win the necessary two-thirds vote for adoption by the Assembly. The following year, a resolution approved by the Assembly without objection expressed hope that negotiations then underway between the governments of Indonesia and the Netherlands would be "fruitful." At the last Assembly session, a First Committee resolution calling for establishment of a good offices commission again failed to get the required majority in the Assembly.

In their explanatory memorandum (Doc. A/3644), the 21 delegations who now request inclusion of this item in the agenda state that this dispute between two member states "continues unresolved and still demands a just and peaceful solution." They stress the need for "further United Nations efforts" for the removal of this "deterrent" to friendly relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands, in the interests of the two governments concerned and of world peace and cooperation in general.

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