FOURTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ANNOTATED AGENDA


The Provisional Agenda (Document A/932) containing 60 items was issued on 22 July and the Supplementary List containing 12 items, on 26 August 1949 (Document A/964).

Additional items may be submitted in accordance with Rule 1.4 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure which says:

"During any regular session of the General Assembly items may be amended or deleted from the agenda, and additional items of an important and urgent character may be placed on the agenda, by a majority of the Members present and voting. Consideration of additional items shall be postponed until seven days after they have been placed on the agenda, unless the General Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, decides otherwise, and until a committee has reported on them."

At the beginning of a session, the General Committee, which consists of the President, the seven Vice-Presidents and the chairmen of the six Main Committees, considers the provisional agenda, the supplementary list and any requests for the inclusion of additional items, and reports to the plenary Assembly. On the basis of this report the agenda is adopted and the various items allocated to appropriate Committees.

The order in which the items so far submitted are listed below is the order in which they appeared in the provisional agenda and the supplementary list. It is not necessarily the order in which they will appear on the agenda as adopted by the Assembly.

The notes given in parentheses after the items are unofficial but are added as background information for correspondents.

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ITEMS ON PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the Delegation of Australia.

[NOTE: At the opening of each session of the General Assembly, the Chairman of the Delegation from which the President of the previous session was elected presides until the Assembly has elected a President for the new session. Dr. Herbert V. Evatt of Australia was President of the Third Regular Session held in two parts—in Paris 21 September to 12 December 1948, and in New York 5 April to 18 May 1949.]

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2. Appointment of a Credentials Committee.

NOTE: The Credentials Committee, appointed at the beginning of each session on the proposal of the President, consists of nine members. It examines the credentials of representatives and reports thereon to the Assembly.

3. Election of the President.

NOTE: The President is elected by secret ballot and by simple majority. No nominations are permitted. The President holds office until the close of the session.

4. Constitution of the Main Committees and election of officers.

NOTE: The Main Committees are: (1) Political and Security Committee; (2) Economic and Financial Committee; (3) Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee; (4) Trusteeship Committee; (5) Administrative and Budgetary Committee; and (6) Legal Committee.

It is customary for brief formal meetings of these six Committees to be held in succession in the plenary Assembly hall for the purpose of electing the Chairman for each Committee. Subsequent meetings of the Main Committees are held at Lake Success.

5. Election of Vice-Presidents.

NOTE: Seven vice-presidents are elected by secret ballot after the election of the Chairmen of the six Main Committees. Their election takes place after that of the Chairmen of the Main Committees in order that the representative character of the General Committee may be complete. Election is by simple majority.

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

NOTE: This paragraph of Article 12 states: "The Secretary-General with the consent of the Security Council, shall notify the General 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 and shall similarly notify the General Assembly, or the Members of the United Nations if the General Assembly is not in session, immediately the Security Council ceases to deal with such matters."

By paragraph 1 of Article 12, the Assembly is precluded from making any recommendations with regard to any dispute or situation with which the Security Council is dealing, unless the Council so requests.

7. Adoption of the agenda.

NOTE: The agenda is adopted after the General Committee has reported to the Assembly on the provisional agenda, the supplementary list and on any requests received for the inclusion of additional items. Adoption is by simple majority.

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[NOTE: It is the usual practice for heads of Delegations to make general policy statements during the general debate.]


[NOTE: The annual report of the Secretary-General for the year ending 30 June 1949 has been issued as a printed document (GA/503). A summary of the report was issued as Press Release GA/503.]


[NOTE: The Security Council on 15 August 1949 unanimously approved its report to the General Assembly. The report has not yet been issued as a printed document.]


[NOTE: This report is not yet available. The ninth session of the Economic and Social Council ended in Geneva on 15 August 1949. Several items in the supplementary list (see under) have been submitted by the Economic and Social Council in accordance with decisions taken at the ninth session. A round-up of the work of the ninth session has been issued as Press Release Ecosoc/569.]


[NOTE: This Report, (Document A/533) covers the fourth and fifth sessions of the Trusteeship Council held 24 January to 25 March and 15 June to 22 July 1949 respectively. The main chapter headings of the report cover: (a) Organization of the Council; (b) Sections dealing with the Council's examination of the annual administrative reports submitted by the Administering Authorities concerned on eight Trust Territories -- Cameroun (UK), Cameroun (France), Togoland (UK), Togoland (France), Western Samoa (New Zealand); New Guinea (Australia), Nauru (Australia), and the Strategic Pacific Trust Territory of the Marshall, Marianas and Carolines (USA); (c) Petitions; (d) Council's visiting missions to Trust Territories in East Africa (1948), West Africa (1949) and the Pacific area (1950); (e) Actions taken on questions referred to the Council by the Third Regular Session of the General Assembly -- Administrative Unions, Educational advancement in Trust Territories and the question of South West Africa.

A summary of the report has been issued as Press Release GA/506.]


[NOTE: The present non-permanent members of the Security Council are: Argentina, Canada, Cuba, Egypt, Norway and the Ukraine. The terms of Argentina, Canada and the Ukraine expire at the end of 1949. Three members are to be elected by secret ballot to fill their places. A two-thirds majority vote is required. Non-permanent members of the Council are elected for a 2-year term. Retiring members are not eligible for immediate re-election.]

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14. Election of six members of the Economic and Social Council.

\[NOTE\]: Six of the 18 members of the Economic and Social Council retire each year after serving 3 years on the Council. Election of six members to replace them is by secret ballot and a two-thirds majority is required. Retiring members are eligible for immediate re-election.

The present members of the Council are: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Byelorussia, Chile, China, Denmark, France, India, Lebanon, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Turkey, USSR, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela.

The six whose term of office expires at the end of this year are: Byelorussia, Lebanon, New Zealand, Turkey, United States and Venezuela.

15. Election of two members of the Trusteeship Council.

\[NOTE\]: The Trusteeship Council is composed of members administering trusteeship areas plus the five permanent members of the Security Council (China, France, United Kingdom, United States and USSR), together with as many non-administering countries, elected by the Assembly for three year terms, as are required to ensure on the Council an equal number of countries which administer Trust Territories and of those which do not.

At the end of this year the membership terms of Iraq and Mexico, two of the present four elected members of the Council, expire and elections will take place to fill the vacancies thus created. Elected members of the Trusteeship Council are eligible for immediate re-election on expiry of their 3-year term.

16. Installation of the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Security Council Affairs.

\[NOTE\]: The appointment of Konstantin E. Zinchenko of the USSR to this post, succeeding Arkady A. Sobolev, who resigned, was announced on 28 April 1949. A biographical note on Mr. Zinchenko was given in Press Release C(N)97. The staff regulations provide that the UN cash be made by Assistant Secretaries-General at a public meeting of the Assembly.

17. Admission of New Members: reports of the Security Council.

\[NOTE\]: The Security Council re-considered twelve applications for membership in the United Nations, pursuant to the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on 8 December 1948, but decided on 20 July 1949 to postpone until later its vote on the various proposals before it regarding the applications of those states: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Ceylon, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, the Mongolian People's Republic, Portugal, and Rumania. Nepal's application for membership has been recommended by the Committee on the Admission of New Members, by a vote of nine to two on 23 August, but the Council has not yet taken action upon it.

The application of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) was considered on 8 April, but did not receive the Council's recommendation because of the negative vote of a Permanent Member.

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18. Palestine.

(a) Proposals for a permanent international regime for the Jerusalem area: report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine (Resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948).


(c) Assistance to Palestine refugees: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 212 (III) of 19 November 1948).

NOTE: None of these reports has yet been issued.

The Conciliation Commission for Palestine, established by the Assembly last December and composed of France, Turkey and the United States, decided on 24 August 1949 to: (1) Nominate a United Nations representative for Jerusalem "to co-operate with the local authorities with respect to the interim administration of the Jerusalem area," and (2) establish an Economic Survey Mission, as a subsidiary body of the Commission, to promote the establishment in the Middle East of economic conditions favorable to the establishment of peace and stability in that area, to facilitate the repatriation, resettlement and economic and social rehabilitation of the refugees in order to integrate them into the economic life of the areas in which they will reside; and to aid the interested Governments in such areas as are required to overcome economic dislocations created by hostilities in Palestine.

Last November, the Assembly estimated that $29,500,000 would be required to provide relief for 300,000 refugees; but the number of refugees has grown to approximately 900,000.

As of 1 August $13,377,930 had been contributed by 27 states other than the US, and this sum had been matched by the United States.

19. Question of the disposal of the former Italian colonies (Resolution 267 (III) of 10 May 1949.)

NOTE: This item was submitted to the Third Regular Session of the General Assembly jointly by the USA, France, UK and UCSR in accordance with the provision of the Peace Treaty with Italy whereby if agreement on the final disposal of Italian colonies was not reached by 15 September 1948 the matter was to be referred to the UN General Assembly. The four powers agreed to accept the recommendation of the Assembly.

No agreement, however, was reached at the last session of the Assembly which finally decided to postpone further consideration of the item until the Fourth Regular Session.

This decision was taken after the Assembly had rejected all the proposals before it on the question except one minor one. Among the proposals rejected by the Assembly were:

(a) A Committee I proposal that Tripolitania be placed under UN trusteeship in 1951 with Italy as the administering authority. (This failed to secure the requisite two-thirds majority, the vote being 33 in favor, 17 against, with 6 abstentions.)

(b) A Committee I proposal that former Italian Somaliland be placed under trusteeship administered by Italy. (This also failed to get a two-thirds majority, the vote being 35 in favor, 19 against, with 4 abstentions.)

After the rejection of these two key provisions in the draft resolution submitted by Committee I, the Committee's draft as a whole was defeated, the vote being 14 in favor, 37 against with 7 abstentions.

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Other proposals rejected by the Assembly included direct UN trusteeship over the former Italian colonies, immediate independence for Libya, and reference of the entire question to the Interim Committee or to a Special Committee for study.

In his annual report to the coming Assembly, the Secretary-General has expressed the view that the best solution of this problem would be direct UN trusteeship with an administrator responsible solely to the Trusteeship Council.

20. Question of Indonesia (Resolution 274 (III) of 11 May 1949.)

\[\text{NOTE: The General Assembly on 11 May 1949 decided to defer consideration of the question of Indonesia until the Fourth Regular Session, after noting the outcome of preliminary negotiations between the Netherlands and the Republic of Indonesia in Batavia as announced on 7 May 1949. The Assembly expressed the hope that this agreement would assist the attainment of a lasting settlement in accordance with the intentions of the Security Council resolution of 20 January 1949.} \]

The Round Table Conference at The Hague, convened to bring about a just and lasting settlement of the Indonesian dispute, opened on 23 August. Participating in the Conference are representatives of the Government of the Netherlands, of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, of the B.F.O. (Federal Consultative Assembly) representing areas in Indonesia other than the Republic, and of the UN Commission for Indonesia.

21. Threats to the political independence and territorial integrity of Greece: report of the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans (Resolution 193 (III) of 27 November 1948.)

\[\text{NOTE: The report of UNSCOB to the General Assembly has been issued in printed form (Document A/935) and consists of five chapters dealing with: (1) Creation, Function and Organization of UNSCOB; (2) Conciliatory role of UNSCOB; (3) External support of the Greek guerrilla movement; (4) Co-operation of UNSCOB with other international organizations; and (5) Conclusions. The recommendations of UNSCOB are to be submitted in a supplementary report nearer the opening of the Assembly.} \]

In its conclusions, UNSCOB states that despite its renewed efforts to obtain the co-operation of Albania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia, those governments have continued to refuse to recognize it in any way; that Albania and Bulgaria have continued to give moral and material assistance to the Greek guerrilla movement and that Albania is the principal source of material assistance; that while Yugoslavia in the early part of the period covered by the report continued to give moral and material aid to the Guerrillas, "this aid has diminished and may have ceased," that there has been an increase in the aid given to the guerrillas by certain states not bordering upon Greece, particularly Rumania. UNSCOB reaffirms its previous conclusions, in particular that the continuance of the present situation "constitutes a threat to the political independence and territorial integrity of Greece and to peace in the Balkans."

The members of UNSCOB are: Australia, Brazil, China, France, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, United Kingdom, United States, Poland and the USSR are also members but have refused to participate in UNSCOB's work.

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/NOTE: UNCN's report to the Assembly will be issued shortly.

The present Commission was established by the Assembly at its last session to supersede the former Temporary Commission, and consists of Australia, China, El Salvador, France, India, Philippines and Syria. Among the tasks assigned to it by the Assembly were: to lend its good offices to bring about unification of Korea; to seek to facilitate the removal of barriers to economic, social and other friendly intercourse caused by the division of Korea; to be available for observation and consultation in the further development of representative government; to observe the actual withdrawal of the occupying forces and verify the fact of withdrawal when it has occurred.\/

23. International control of atomic energy: report of the Permanent Members of the Atomic Energy Commission (Resolution 191 (III) of 4 November 1948.)

/NOTE: Under this resolution, the six permanent members of the Atomic Energy Commission--Canada, China, France, USSR, United Kingdom and United States--were requested by the Assembly "to meet together and consult in order to determine if there exists a basis for agreement on the international control of atomic energy to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes and for the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons."

They were to report the results of their consultations to the Assembly not later than its next regular session.

The consultations between the six permanent members began on 9 August 1949.

The Atomic Energy Commission meantime had adopted on 29 July 1949 a US resolution to suspend its meetings "until such time as the sponsoring powers have reported that there exists a basis for agreement."

The vote on this was 9 in favor, 2 against (US and Ukraine).

At the same meeting on 29 July, the AEC adopted a resolution submitted by its Working Committee that no useful purpose would be served by any further discussion of the Soviet proposal for the drafting of two conventions on the prohibition of atomic weapons and on atomic energy control. The voting on this was 7 for, 2 against (US, USSR, and Ukraine) with 2 abstentions (Argentina and Egypt).\/

24. Prohibition of the atomic weapon and reduction by one-third of the armaments and armed forces of the permanent members of the Security Council: report of the Security Council (Resolution 192 (III) of 30 November 1948).

/NOTE: On 1 August 1949 the Commission for Conventional Armaments adopted a proposal for a census and verification of the armaments and armed forces of the United Nations Member states. The vote was eight in favor to three against (Egypt, Ukraine, USSR). The Security Council has not yet taken action on the Commission's report.\/


(a) Promotion of International Cooperation in the Political Field.

(b) Constitution, duration and terms of reference of the Interim Committee.

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6. United Nations Field Service: report of the Special Committee (Resolution 270 (III) of 22 April 1949).

NOTE: Last April, the Assembly, after considering the original proposal of the Secretary-General for a United Nations Guard, set up a special committee composed of Australia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Haiti, Pakistan, Poland, Sweden, USSR, United Kingdom and United States, to study the proposal in all its aspects. To this committee the Secretary-General submitted a revised proposal for a United Nations Field Service and Field Reserve Panel (Document A/AC.29/1). The report of the Special Committee recommends the establishment of a UN Field Service -- a force of up to 300 men to provide technical services and to ensure the security of missions -- and of a UN Panel of Field Observers -- a reserve of individuals to be called upon for observation functions in connection with truce enforcement, plebiscites and other similar matters.

The report includes a section giving the views of the minority (Czechoslovakia, Poland and the USSR) who abstained in the final vote and who maintained that the plan was illegal and contrary to the Charter.


NOTE: The General Assembly adopted this resolution on 30 April 1949 after consideration of an item entitled "Having regard to the provisions of the Charter and of the Peace Treaties, the question of the observance in Bulgaria and Hungary of human rights and fundamental freedoms including questions of religious and civil liberties, with special reference to recent trials of church leaders." The Assembly resolution which was adopted by 34 votes for, 6 against with 9 abstentions, expressed "deep concern at the grave accusations made against the Governments of Bulgaria and Hungary regarding the suppression of human rights and fundamental freedoms in those countries." It noted "with satisfaction" that steps had been taken by several signatories to the Peace Treaties with Bulgaria and Hungary regarding these accusations, and expressed hope "that measures will be diligently applied, in accordance with the Treaties, in order to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms." The resolution also drew the attention of the Governments of Bulgaria and Hungary to their obligations under the Peace Treaties, including the obligation to cooperate in the settlement of all these questions. The Assembly finally decided to retain the question on the agenda of the fourth regular session.

On 20 August, the Australian Delegation, which had originally raised this question with regard to Bulgaria and Hungary, submitted another item raising a similar question with regard to Romania (Doc. A/494). See also Item "3 in the supplementary list below.

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Economic development of under-developed countries: report of the Economic and Social Council (Resolution 15C (III) of 4 December 1948).

NOTE: The Assembly resolution of 4 December 1948 recommended that the ECOSOC and the specialized agencies give further and urgent consideration to the whole problem of the economic development of
under-developed countries in all its aspects and that the ECOSCC should report to this coming session on measures already devised by it and the specialized agencies and on proposals for other measures to promote economic development and to raise standards of living of under-developed countries.

At its ninth session, the ECOSCC on 14 and 15 August 1949 adopted four resolutions dealing with (1) technical assistance for economic development; (2) methods of financing economic development of under-developed countries; (3) an expanded program on technical assistance for economic development and (4) relations between the UN and regional organizations within this program. (Document E/1546). See also Item 6 of the Supplementary List. 


[NOTE: At the second part of its Third Session the General Assembly adopted a Convention on the International Transmission of News and the Right of Correction, and began, but decided to refer to the Fourth Session a draft Convention on Freedom of Information. This draft had originally been proposed by the UN Conference on Freedom of Information and of the Press and had subsequently been transmitted to the Assembly by the Seventh Session of the Economic and Social Council.

In referring the draft to its fourth session, together with the records of the debates on the subject in the Third Committee, the General Assembly asked that high priority be given to this item. At the same time, the Assembly resolved that the Convention on the International Transmission of News should not be open for signature until the Assembly had taken definite action on the draft Convention on Freedom of Information.]

30. Discrimination practiced by certain States against immigrating labor, and in particular, against labor recruited from the ranks of refugees. (Resolution 222 (III) of 16 May 1949).

[NOTE: This item was originally submitted by Poland for the agenda of the Third Regular Session (Doc. A/614). Toward the end of the second part of that session, the Polish Delegation stated that it wished examination of this item to be postponed to the Fourth Regular Session and the Assembly therefore decided to withdraw the item from the third session's agenda and to recommend its inclusion in the provisional agenda for the fourth session.]


[NOTE: This resolution of the Assembly continued the United Nations Appeal for Children as a world wide appeal for voluntary contributions to be used for the benefit of the UN International Children's Emergency Fund. The resolution further requested UNICEF to assist in the conduct of national campaigns for the Fund with a view to giving international coordination to voluntary appeals for the benefit of children and to report on the appeals to the ninth session of ECOSCC and to the Fourth Regular Session of the Assembly.]


[NOTE: By this resolution the Assembly asked the ECOSCC to ask the Commission on Human Rights to give further examination to the problem of]
petitions when studying the draft Covenant on Human Rights and measures of implementation to enable the Assembly at its next session to consider what further action should be taken regarding the problem of petitions.

Since then, the ninth session of ECOSCC, in view of the fact that the Commission on Human Rights had not yet taken any final decision on the problem of petitions, has recommended that the General Assembly take no further action on this question at its fourth session. This ECOSCC resolution has been issued as a note by the Secretary-General (Document A/BUR/117).

### 33. Action taken in pursuance of the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies: report of the Economic and Social Council (Resolution 50 (I) of 14 December 1946)

**NOTE:** This resolution adopted at the first session of the Assembly instructed the ECOSCC to report to the Assembly within the space of three years on the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and of the organs of the UN so that the Council and the Assembly might, if necessary, and after consultation with the agencies, draw up proposals for improving such co-ordination.

At its ninth session, ECOSCC noted with satisfaction the progress made in the co-ordination of the activities of the UN and the specialized agencies and also recommended to the Assembly that no measures be taken at this time to revise agreements between the UN and the agencies. It also requested the Secretary-General to submit a summary report to the fourth Assembly on the more important concrete results achieved through co-operation with the specialized agencies. This report is in preparation.

### 34. Administrative unions affecting Trust Territories: report of the Trusteeship Council (Resolution 234 (IX) of 10 November 1948)

**NOTE:** In this resolution adopted on 10 November 1948, the General Assembly endorsed the observations of the Trusteeship Council "that an administrative union "must remain strictly administrative in its nature and in its scope, and that its operation must not have the effect of creating any conditions which will obstruct the separate development of the Trust Territory, in the field of political, economic, social and educational advancement, as a distinct entity." The Assembly then recommended the Trusteeship Council to investigate these questions in all their aspects with special reference to administrative unions already constituted or proposed, and to recommend such safeguards as the Council may deem necessary to preserve the distinct political status of the Trust Territories, and to enable the Council effectively to exercise supervisory functions over them.

At its fourth session the Trusteeship Council set up a special committee on administrative unions consisting of France, China, Mexico, New Zealand, USSR and USA. The Council considered this committee's report (Doc. T/330 and Add.1) at its fifth session, and decided to inform the Assembly that it will continue to study and examine the effects of the operation of existing or future administrative unions. The Council also took note of the assurances of the Administering Authorities that the administrative arrangements under consideration do not extinguish the political identity of the Trust Territories.

The Council decided to transmit to the Assembly the report of its special committee.
35. Question of South West Africa: report of the Trusteeship Council (Resolution 227 (III) of 26 November 1948).

[NOTE: In the resolution adopted 26 November 1948, the General Assembly maintained its recommendations of 14 December 1946 and 1 November 1947, that South West Africa be placed under the trusteeship system, and noted with regret that those recommendations had not been carried out. It recommended that the Union of South Africa, until agreement is reached with the United Nations regarding the future of South West Africa should continue to supply annually information on its administration of the Territory, and requested the Trusteeship Council to continue to examine such information and to submit its observations thereon to the General Assembly.]

The Trusteeship Council at its fifth session was notified in a letter dated 11 July 1949 from the Union Government (A/929) that that Government intended to bring about a form of closer association with the former mandated territory of South West Africa and that it had decided not to transmit any further report on the Territory. In the circumstances, the Trusteeship Council decided to inform the Assembly that "the refusal of the Union Government to submit further reports (on South West Africa) precludes ... (it) ... from exercising further the functions envisaged for it in resolution 227 (III)."

36. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

(a) Summary and analysis of information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 218 (III) of 3 November 1948).

(b) Information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter: report of the Special Committee (Resolution 219 (III) of 3 November 1948).

[NOTE: The General Assembly, at its third session in Paris, invited the Member States transmitting information under Article 73 e of the Charter, to send to the Secretary-General the most recent information of a technical nature relating to economic, social and educational condition in the Non-Self-Governing Territories for which they are responsible. It also invited the Secretary-General to prepare for the Assembly full summaries and analyses of the information transmitted.

During 1948 information was received on 61 of the Territories. In most cases, the information related to the calendar year 1947. In 1949 information was submitted relating to more than 60 Territories.

The Secretary-General, pursuant to the resolution, prepared (a) summaries of the information transmitted, as well as (b) analyses of the information in regard to the main economic problems (labor, education, public health) and some aspects of the social welfare covering all the Territories.

The Secretary-General's summaries and analyses will first be examined by a special Assembly committee, which convened at Lake Success on 25 August. The Committee consists of eight Member States transmitting information (Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States) together with eight Members elected by the General Assembly (Brazil, China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, India, Sweden, USSR and Venezuela).]


[NOTE: This report has not yet been issued. It will deal with progress in the construction of the Permanent Headquarters in Manhattan and with the financial and planning problems which have come before the Headquarters Advisory Committee and the Headquarters Planning Office.]

[NOTE: This report has not yet been issued.]

39. Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1949: report of the Secretary-General.  

[This report has not yet been issued.]

40. Budget Estimates for the financial year 1950.  

(a) Budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General.  

[b) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.  

[NOTE: The budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General are given in Document A/903 and the reports of the Advisory Committee in Document A/934. A summary of both reports is given in Press Release ORG/116. The budget estimates for 1950 prepared by the Secretary-General total $44,314,398. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee include reductions totaling $1,786,750 in the estimates.]

41. Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for 1949 and advances from the Working Capital Fund: report of the Secretary-General.  

[NOTE: This report has not yet been issued.]

42. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions (Resolution 233 (III) of 18 November 1948).  

[NOTE: The Committee's report is contained in Document A/954 and is summarized in Press Release GA/507. The Committee recommends that Israel's contribution be assessed at 0.12 percent of the UN's operating expenses and that the contributions of two other Member States -- the United States and Sweden -- be reduced by 0.10 and 0.02 percent respectively. Apart from these changes, it recommends that the scale of assessments for 1950 remain the same as in 1949.]


[NOTE: This report is given in Document A/963.]

44. Organization of a United Nations postal administration: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 232 (III) of 6 October 1948).  

[NOTE: By this resolution, the Assembly approved in principle the idea of establishing a United Nations postal administration. (The question had originally been submitted to the Second Session by Argentina.) The resolution of last October went on to invite the assistance of the Universal Postal Union in achieving a UN postal administration; authorized the Secretary-General to conclude arrangements with the various governments for the issue of special or over-printed stamps subject to the provisions that words, designs and face values of such issues be approved by the Secretary-General and that no arrangements entered into should involve financial loss to the UN. The Secretary-General was requested to pursue inquiries and report to this coming session. The report of the Secretary-General has not yet been issued.]
45. Establishment of an Administrative Tribunal: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 13 (3) IV, Paragraph 11 of 13 February 1946).

[NOTE:] During the last session, the Belgian Delegation submitted two proposals (Documents A/5, 260 and 261) aimed at strengthening relations inside the Secretariat between the Administration and the staff by implementing certain decisions taken by the Preparatory Commission in 1946 and subsequently laid down in the Provisional Staff Regulations. These proposals called for (1) the setting up of a "body through which the staff can be associated in the solution of questions concerning officials and in the application of the Staff Rules and Regulations;" and (2) a scheme for an Administrative Tribunal to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the next Assembly. The Belgian proposals were withdrawn after the Secretary-General had welcomed them and indicated that he had already had talks with the Specialized Agencies and with the UN Staff Committee and that he proposed to bring the question of an Administrative Tribunal before the next Assembly.

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

(a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

[NOTE:] This is a nine-member committee. Three members retire each year after serving a three-year term and are eligible for reappointment. The present members of the Committee are: Thanassis Aghnides (Greece), Andre Genam (France), C. L. Hoia (China), Valentin I. Kaveshko (USSR), Olyntho P. Machado (Brazil), Sir William Matthews (UK), Jan Papanek (Czechoslovakia), William O. Hall (USA), N. Sundareshan (India). At the end of this year the terms of office of Mr. Machado, Sir William Matthews and Mr. Hall expire.

In a note to the Assembly (Document A/951) the Secretary-General suggests that, as at the last session, the Fifth Committee should recommend persons for the three vacancies to be filled.

(b) Committee on Contributions.

[NOTE:] This is a ten-member committee three members of which retire each year in rotation after serving a three-year term (four retire every third year), being eligible for reappointment. The present members of the Committee are: Rafik Arba (Syria), L. Campion (UK), Rene Charron (France), P. M. Chernyshev (USSR), K. V. Dzun (China), Seymour Jacklin (Union of South Africa), Jan Papanek (Czechoslovakia), Josue Scanz (Mexico), James E. Webb (US), and Knud M.E.H. Witterwolle (Netherlands). At the end of this year the terms of office of Mr. Dzun, Mr. Papanek and Mr. Webb expire.

The Secretary-General has suggested (Document A/952) that as at the last session, the Fifth Committee should recommend persons for the vacancies to be filled.

(c) Board of Auditors.

[NOTE:] The Board of Auditors consists of three members. At each regular session the Assembly appoints an auditor to take office from 1 July of the following year and to serve for a period of three years. The election this year will be to fill the vacancy created by the expiry on 30 June 1950 of the term of office of the Attorney-General of Canada on the Board. In Document A/950 the Secretary-General has suggested that, as at the last session, the Fifth Committee should recommend the Member States whose Auditor-General (or other title) be appointed to fill the vacancy.

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(d) United Nations Staff Pension Committee.

[NOTE: This Committee consists of three members elected for three years by the Assembly. Three alternates are also elected. The membership of the present members and alternates expires at the end of this year. Elections to fill these vacancies will take place at the coming session and the Secretary-General has suggested (Document A/593) that as at the last session, the Fifth Committee, after a secret ballot, should recommend persons for appointment.]

(e) Investments Committee.

[NOTE: A draft resolution (Document A/549) will be submitted to the General Assembly to approve the appointment by the Secretary-General of Mr. Irar Rooth, former Director of the Bank of Sweden, as a member of the Investments Committee for a three year term to commence 1 January 1950.]


[NOTE: This report has not yet been issued.]


[NOTE: The eighth session of the ECOSOC adopted a resolution (Document E/1165) which, inter alia, recommended the Secretary-General to prepare plans for assessing signatories of the 1925 Convention who are not members of the UI for their fair share of the expenses of the Permanent Central Opium Board.]

49. Methods and Procedures of the General Assembly: report of the Special Committee (Resolution 271 (III) of 29 April 1949).

[NOTE: In the second part of its Third Session the Assembly set up a Special Committee, composed of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Iran, Mexico, Sweden, USSR, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay, to consider methods and procedures which would enable the Assembly and its committees "to discharge their functions more effectively and expeditiously."

The Committee's report (Document A/597) says the present length of Assembly sessions cannot be ascribed primarily to the rules of procedure, but rather to the number and complexity of the questions submitted to the Assembly. The Committee adds that the Assembly's work might be accelerated if the present rules of procedure were more fully observed, if all their potentialities were better known to Committee Chairmen and to members and if Chairmen performed their functions more boldly. The Committee's report does suggest some alterations to the present rules of procedure covering the setting at the beginning of each session of a target date for its completion, closer scrutiny over the admission of additional agenda items and measures for shortening discussion.

The Committee also considered a proposal of the Secretary-General for an interval for prayer and meditation in meetings of the General Assembly. The Committee suggests a new draft rule providing 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."

(more)
The report also contains a statement of the views of the delegation of the USSR which felt that sufficient reasons had not been presented for amending the present rules of procedure and which opposed all but two of the Committee's recommendations as being neither realistic or time-saving.


(a) Part I: General (Resolutions 174 (II), 177 (II) of 21 November 1947; and 260 (III) B of 9 December 1948).

(b) Part II: Draft Declaration on the Rights and Duties of States (Resolution 176 (II) of 21 November 1947).

[NOTE: The International Law Commission was established by resolution of the General Assembly 174 (II) on 21 November 1947. By another resolution on the same date (177 (II)) the Commission was directed to formulate the principles of international law recognized in the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal in the judgment of the Tribunal, and to prepare a draft code of offences against the peace and security of mankind. At its third session the Assembly on 9 December 1948 invited the International Law Commission to study the question of establishing an international judicial organ for the trial of persons charged with genocide or other crimes over which it may have jurisdiction, and to pay attention to the possibility of establishing a Criminal Chamber of the International Court of Justice.]

Another task entrusted to the International Law Commission by a decision of the General Assembly on 21 November 1947 (178 - II) was to prepare a draft Declaration on the Rights and Duties of States.

Part I of the report of the ILC submitted to the forthcoming session of the Assembly (Document A/939) deals with the codification of international law, formulation of the Nuremberg Principles and preparation of a draft code of offences against the peace and security of mankind, the study of an international criminal jurisdiction and ways and means for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available, cooperation with other bodies, etc.

Part II of the report of the ILC gives the text of the draft Declaration on Rights and Duties of States as adopted by the Commission. The report points out that the Commission "decided by 12 votes to 1 to submit the draft Declaration, through the Secretary-General to the General Assembly immediately, and to place on record its conclusion that it was for the General Assembly to decide what further course of action should be taken in relation to the draft Declaration and, in particular, whether it should be transmitted to Member governments for comments."

51. Permanent Missions to the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 257 (III) of 3 December 1948).

[NOTE: This resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 1948 instructed the Secretary-General to submit at each regular session of the General Assembly a report on the credentials of the permanent representatives accredited to the United Nations. In Part B of the same resolution, the Secretary-General was instructed to "study all questions which may arise from the institution of permanent missions ... and if necessary to report on this subject to the next regular session of the General Assembly."

The report of the Secretary-General (Document A/939) states that at 16 August, 50 Member states have set up permanent missions at the seat of the UN, and 15 have set up permanent missions at the European Office of the UN in Geneva.

(more)
52. Reparation for injuries incurred in the service of the United Nations:

advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 258 (III) of 3 December 1948).

/NOTE: In accordance with a resolution of the Assembly adopted on 3 December 1948, an advisory opinion was sought of the International Court of Justice on two questions:

"1. In the event of an agent of the United Nations in the performance of his duties suffering injury in circumstances involving the responsibility of a State, has the United Nations, as an Organization, the capacity to bring an international claim against the responsible de jure or de facto government with a view to obtaining the repairation due in respect of the damage caused (a) to the United Nations, (b) to the victim or to persons entitled through him?"

"2. In the event of an affirmative reply on 1 (b), how is action by the United Nations to be reconciled with such rights as may be possessed by the State of which the victim is a national?"

The advisory opinion of the International Court, given on 11 April 1949 was that as regards 1(a) the UN as an organization has the capacity to bring an international claim in such circumstances against a Member or non-Member State in respect of damage caused to the United Nations. Similarly, in answer to 1 (b), the Court's advisory opinion was that the UN has the capacity to bring a claim against a Member or non-Member State in respect of damage caused to the victim or to persons entitled through him.

To question 2, the opinion of the Court was that in bringing a claim for repairation of damage caused to its agent, the UN can only do so by having its claim upon a breach of obligations due to itself. Respect for this rule, the opinion stated, will usually prevent a conflict between the action of the United Nations and such rights as the agent's national state may possess and thus bring about a reconciliation between their claims.

The decision of the last Assembly further instructed the Secretary-General to prepare, after the Court had given its opinion, proposals in the light of that opinion and to submit them to the next session of the Assembly.


/NOTE: This resolution of the Assembly invited the Secretary-General in consultation with the Economic and Social Council, to draft rules for the calling of international conferences, as provided in paragraph 4 of Article 62 of the Charter. This paragraph stipulates that the ECOSOC "may call, in accordance with the rules prescribed by the United Nations, international conferences on matters falling within its competence."

At its eighth session, on 2 March 1949, the ECOSOC adopted a set of 11 draft rules which now came before the Assembly for approval (Document A/543). /

34. Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements: report of the Secretary-General.

/NOTE: By resolution 254 (III) the General Assembly on 3 November 1948 instructed the Secretary-General "to take all the necessary steps to ensure that registered treaties or agreements shall be published with (more)
the least possible delay and that the translations shall reach the highest possible level of accuracy and precision.

On the same day, by resolution 254 (III) B, the Assembly requested "that each of the Member States take cognizance of its obligation under Article 102 and take immediate steps to fulfill this obligation." Article 102 of the Charter stimulates that:

1. Every treaty and every international agreement entered into by any Member of the United Nations after the present Charter comes into force shall as soon as possible be registered with the Secretariat and published by it.

2. No Party to any such treaty or international agreement which has not been registered in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article may invoke that treaty or agreement before any organ of the United Nations.

The report of the Secretary-General to the Assembly (Document A/958) states that between 14 December 1946 and 15 August 1949, 569 treaties had been registered.7

55. Privileges and immunities of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General.

/NOTE: On 8 December 1948 the General Assembly adopted a resolution - 259 (III) - which invited those States Members which have not yet acceded to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations to deposit their instruments of accession to this Convention with the Secretary-General at the earliest possible moment.

It is expected that the above report of the Secretary-General will also deal with the privileges and immunities of the specialized agencies.7

56. Approval of a supplementary agreement with the Universal Postal Union concerning the use of the United Nations laissez-passer: report of the Secretary-General.

/NOTE: The above agreement concerns the use of the United Nations laissez-passer by officials of the Universal Postal Union in accordance with Article VII, Section 20 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations which deals with the UN laissez-passer and which reads as follows:

"The provisions of this article may be applied to the comparable officials of Specialized Agencies if the agreement for relationship made under Article 63 of the Charter so provide," and with Article XIV of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union which reads:

"The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Executive and Liaison Commission of the Union may enter into such supplementary arrangements for the implementation of this agreement as may be found desirable in the light of operating experience of the two organizations."

A supplementary agreement for the use of the UN laissez-passer to be used by Universal Postal Union officials was signed in July 1949 (Document A/944) and now comes before the Assembly for approval.7 (more)
57. Designation of non-member States to which a certified copy of the revised General Act for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes shall be communicated by the Secretary-General for the purpose of accession to this Act: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 260(III)A of 28 April 1949).

[NOTE: Paragraph 1 of Article 43 of the General Act as revised by the General Assembly by the above resolution reads as follows:]

"The present General Act shall be open to accession by the Members of the United Nations; by the non-member States which shall have become parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice or to which the General Assembly of the United Nations shall have communicated a copy for this purpose."

Article 46 of the revised General Act reads as follows:

"A copy of the present General Act, signed by the President of the General Assembly and by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, shall be deposited in the archives of the Secretariat. A certified true copy shall be delivered by the Secretary-General to each of the Members of the United Nations, to those designated by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and to the non-member States which shall have become parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice and to those designated by the General Assembly of the United Nations."

58. Invitations to be addressed to non-member States to become parties to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide: report of the Secretary-General (Article XII of the Convention, resolution 260(III) of 9 December 1948).

[NOTE: By this resolution - 260 (III) - the General Assembly approved the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and proposed it for signature and ratification or accession in accordance with Article XII of the Convention which reads:

"The present Convention shall be open until 31 December 1949 for signature on behalf of any Member of the United Nations and of any non-member State to which an invitation to sign has been addressed by the General Assembly.

"The present Convention shall be ratified, and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

"After 1 January 1950, the present Convention may be acceded to on behalf of any Member of the United Nations and of any non-member State which has received an invitation as aforesaid.

"Instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations."]


[NOTE: On 27 July 1949, the Security Council voted to recommend the granting of the request made by the Principality of Liechtenstein to become a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice under the same conditions as Switzerland, which was the first non-UN member to become a party to the Statute of the Court. The vote in the Council was 9 in favor, none against with 2 abstentions (Ukraine and USSR).]
Article 93, Paragraph 2 of the Charter provides that "a state which is not a member of the United Nations may become a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice on conditions to be determined in each case by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council." 

60. Plan for the reform of the calendar: item proposed by Panama.

/NOTE: In a letter dated 18 April 1949 (Document A/840) the Delegation of Panama requested that the plan for the reform of the calendar be included in the agenda of the fourth session. The plan proposes the adoption for the whole world, as from 1950, of a new system for a fixed, uniform, invariable calendar, regulated astronomically according to the movement of the earth around the sun. A memorandum presented by the Delegation of Panama (Document A/901) sets out detailed arguments in favor of a world calendar as opposed to the present Gregorian calendar and urges that immediate action be taken at the coming session as "such a fortuitous opportunity for calendar reform will not recur until 1956..."/ 

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ITEMS ON SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

1. Problem of the proliferation and overlapping of the programs of the United Nations and of its Specialized Agencies: Item proposed by Brazil.

/NOTE: On 17 August 1949 the Brazilian Delegation requested the inclusion of this item on the agenda of the coming session of the Assembly (Document A/947)./ 

2. Tribute to the memory of Thomas Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Delano Roosevelt: Item proposed by Nicaragua.

/NOTE: On 15 August 1949 the Delegation of Nicaragua advised the Secretary-General (Document A/946) that it wished to introduce a draft resolution proposing that the UN render tribute to the memory of Thomas Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Delano Roosevelt "outstanding leaders in the creation of the League of Nations and the United Nations, respectively."/

3. The observance of fundamental freedoms and human rights in Rumania, including the question of religious and civil liberty (in conjunction with the analogous question raised by Australia in connection with Bulgaria and Hungary): Item proposed by Australia.

/NOTE: This item was submitted by Australia on 20 August (Document A/948). See note to item #27 of the Provisional Agenda./ 

4. The observance and implementation of Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter, and in particular of 55 (a) providing for the achievement of full employment and higher standards of living: Item proposed by Australia.

/NOTE: This item was submitted by Australia on 20 August (Document A/948). Article 55 provides that the United Nations shall promote:
"(a) higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development;

"(b) solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems; and international cultural and educational co-operation; and ... ..."

By Article 56, all Members pledge themselves to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55.

This item is likely to be taken together with item #5 below.

5. Action to achieve or maintain full employment and economic stability: item proposed by the Economic and Social Council.

/NOTE: At its ninth session the ECOSOC adopted a joint resolution submitted by France, the UK and US inviting the Secretary-General to appoint a small group of experts to prepare a report on national and international measures required to achieve and maintain full employment. It also invited the Economic and Employment Commission to examine the report and to submit to the next ECOSOC session comments and recommendations for action. The Secretary-General was also requested to publish on a current basis, brief, up-to-date reports on measures taken in various countries to maintain high levels of employment.

The ninth session also adopted an Australian proposal recommending that the General Assembly include the question of promoting full employment on the agenda of its coming session. This resolution transmits to the Assembly the records of the Council's discussion and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly the latest available information on the world economic situation and national and international action to achieve or maintain full employment and economic stability.

6. Economic development of under-developed countries:

(a) Technical assistance for economic development: report of the Economic and Social Council (Resolution 200 (III) of 4 December 1948).

(b) Expanded co-operative program of technical assistance for economic development through the United Nations and the specialized agencies: Item proposed by the Economic and Social Council.

/NOTE: See note to item #28 of the Provisional Agenda.

7. Draft Convention for the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others: item proposed by the Economic and Social Council.

/NOTE: At its ninth session the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution recommending to the General Assembly the conclusion of an international convention based on the draft of the Social Commission and taking into consideration the views expressed during the Council's discussion (Document E/1359).

8. Refugees and stateless persons: item proposed by the Economic and Social Council.

/NOTE: At its ninth session the ECOSOC adopted a resolution inviting the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly a plan envisaging two possible solutions to the problem of protecting stateless persons and refugees after IRO ceased its operations: (a) The creation of a

[NOTE: At its ninth session the ECOSOC decided to refer to the forthcoming session of the General Assembly a draft resolution urging all countries to grant freedom of access for accredited news personnel to countries where meetings of the United Nations might take place, and to the sources of the information of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies. This draft resolution is a redraft of a similar resolution figuring as item 9 in the Final Act of the UN Conference on Freedom of Information and of the Press, which the General Assembly had considered to be ambiguous.]

10. Advisory social welfare services; item proposed by the Economic and Social Council.

[NOTE: At its ninth session the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution recommending that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to place the UN's advisory social welfare services on a continuing, rather than the present year-to-year basis, and direct him to include in the regular UN budget an amount for these services.]


[NOTE: At its ninth session the ECOSOC decided to transmit the report of UNICEF to the General Assembly and to draw the Assembly's attention to the fact that further contributions are necessary to enable the Fund to carry out its program up to 1950 (Document E/1406).]

12. Draft Convention on the death of missing persons; item proposed by the Economic and Social Council.

[NOTE: The ninth session of the ECOSOC adopted a resolution which, recognizing that the disappearance of numerous victims of war and persecution presents an urgent problem requiring an international convention for its solution, requests the Secretary-General to transmit immediately to Member Governments the Draft Convention on the subject proposed by its ad hoc Committee together with a record of the discussion of the subject which took place in the Council. The resolution then recommends that the General Assembly should examine the Draft Convention at its forthcoming session, with a view to having the Convention adopted and opened for signature during that session.]

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