Fourth session
Item 53 of the agenda

REGISTRATION AND PUBLICATION OF TREATIES
AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Financial implications of the draft resolution
proposed by the Sixth Committee (A/1100)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Dr. Maria Z. N. WITTEVEN (Netherlands)

1. In accordance with rule 142 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and with the request of the President in his letter dated 31 October 1949 to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/65/333), the Fifth Committee, at its 222nd meeting held on 11 November 1949, considered the effect on the budget estimates for 1950 of the draft resolution, adopted by the Sixth Committee on 26 October 1949, concerning the registration and publication of treaties and international agreements.

2. For the purpose of considering the financial implications of this draft resolution the Fifth Committee had before it a report by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (sixteenth report of 1949, A/1061) indicating that on the basis of information furnished by the Secretary-General an estimated total of thirty-two volumes of the Treaty Series will need to be published during the year 1950, if the interval between registration and publication is to be reduced to six months. The Fifth Committee noted that the 1950 budget estimates of the Department of Legal Affairs include provision for the publication of twelve volumes of the Treaty Series in the amount of $54,000 and that the publication of thirty-two volumes during 1950 would increase the cost of printing by a maximum of $50,000, making a total cost of $104,000.

3. While concurring in the view that the early publication of registered agreements and treaties is a desirable objective, the Fifth Committee endorsed the opinion of the Advisory Committee and of the Secretary-General that it is unnecessary at the present stage to make any recommendation for additional budgetary provision in respect of the Treaty Series and that, should expenditure beyond the proposed appropriations be incurred, such
additional expenditure should be met, in the first instance, out of any savings within the Department of Legal Affairs or in other sections of the 1950 budget. The Fifth Committee took note of the assurance given by the Advisory Committee that, in the event of such savings proving insufficient for requirements, the Advisory Committee will be prepared, at the appropriate time, to recommend that supplementary provision be authorized, due regard being paid to the capacity of the Department of Legal Affairs and of the other services concerned to absorb the additional workload which the above programme represents.

4. The Fifth Committee therefore decided to recommend that the General Assembly, in its consideration of the draft resolution adopted by the Sixth Committee concerning registration and publication of treaties and international agreements, should take note of the views expressed in paragraph 3 above.