

budget estimates as recommended by the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General is confronted with real hardship in the maintenance of the essential activities of the United Nations, the Advisory Committee will assist him."

October 29, 1953 - Budget Estimates for Regional Economic Commissions

Let me at the outset say that my delegation will support the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in these items of the budget.

I am sure that the distinguished representatives of Chile, the Argentine and Indonesia and all other countries who have spoken for the cuts proposed by the Advisory Committee to be reinstated, either in whole or in part, will not interpret what I have to say in any sense as demonstrating a lack of sympathetic interest on the part of the Government of Canada in the important work of the Economic Commissions.

I appreciate the gesture made by Argentina in withdrawing their original proposal. But my comments will apply equally to the compromise proposed by the distinguished delegate of France which the Argentine representative has indicated he will accept.

Delegates may recall that in my general statement made at the beginning of the work of this Committee I said:

"It would appear that proposals may come forward for a restoration of certain cuts or for an increase in certain appropriations. If the proposals come forward in an orderly and judicious manner in keeping with the usual procedures of this committee, we will, of course, give careful consideration to the suggestions. We would hope, however, that the spirit of co-operation evident on the part of the Secretary-General will not be his alone."

Now surely the "orderly manner in keeping with the traditions of the Committee" to which I referred would suggest that in matters of the kind we are talking about the Secretary-General should first be asked whether or not he can get along within the limitations proposed by the cuts. For nothing could be more certain than that if the Secretary-General does not want money, this Committee would be the last body to thrust it upon him.

Now the Assistant Secretary-General has mentioned that he does not need a large part of the reduction proposed. The rest he will leave to the good judgment of this Committee. Now we have met reductions in other parts of the budget. We have been voting on them all along, so far consistently. And I think we have done this because we all appreciate the co-operation shown by the Secretary-General in this time of reorganization in having agreed not to challenge the findings of the Advisory Committee.

I would plead that this spirit, so admirably continued by the distinguished representative of Burma, might still prevail.