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# FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

## Introduction

It is the responsibility of each regular session of the General Assembly to review the financial and administrative aspects of the work of the United Nations and to approve the budget for the forthcoming year. Under its rules of procedure the Assembly is assisted in this task by an Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions composed of nine members including at least two financial experts of recognized standing. At the beginning of a regular session the Committee submits to the Assembly a detailed report on the budget and on the accounts of the last financial year and this report is studied by the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee. In addition to its budgetary duties the Fifth Committee was faced at the twelfth session with administrative questions in connection with conference arrangements, documentation, staff pensions and other personnel matters.

The constant expansion of the activities of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies has increased the complexity of problems and particularly the problem of co-ordination. Canada has, therefore, taken an active interest in this phase of the United Nations administration.

## Finance

### Examination of the Budgets

United Nations gross budget appropriations for 1957 were \$53.17 million including further supplementary estimates of \$2.36 million. At the time of passing these final supplementaries on December 14, 1957, it was estimated that miscellaneous income for 1957 would amount to \$3.15 million, leaving a net budget of \$50.02 million. Canada's assessment of 3.15 per cent for 1957 amounted to \$1.58 million.

The 1958 gross budget was set at \$55.06 million and estimated miscellaneous income at \$3.25 million, or a net budget of \$51.81 million. Canada's assessment for 1958, which is at 3.09 per cent, is therefore \$1.60 million.

From the above it will be seen that the net budget for 1958 is approximately \$1.79 million over that of 1957. It may be assumed that before the 1958 financial year is finished there will be further supplementary estimates presented at the thirteenth session, which will increase further the excess of \$1.79 million for 1958 over the 1957 total. While this increase was a cause of considerable concern at the twelfth session of the General Assembly, the growth in the membership of the United Nations and a tendency towards higher costs for goods and services, explains the bulk of the increase in the budget. With, however, the increased membership to share the cost, most of the substantial contributing countries had a lower assessment for 1958 than for 1957.

The budget of the United Nations is prepared by the Secretariat and presented to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General, but before it is considered by the plenary sessions of the Assembly it is examined in detail