

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 53/68 UNITED NATIONS BUDGET ESTIMATES

The following are the text of three statements made by Mr. S.D. Hemsley, of the Canadian Delegation in the Fifth Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, dealing with agenda item 39 - Budget Estimates for 1954.

NOTE: Information about the United Nations budget as adopted by the Assembly is given at the end of this paper.

October 2, 1953 - General Statement

We are meeting this year to consider the Budget Estimates in an atmosphere somewhat different from that which has prevailed in previous years. The Secretary-General has indicated that he will not contest the reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee. This, I am sure you will agree, makes the work of the Fifth Committee somewhat easier, and my delegation would express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for the co-operative spirit in which he has approached this problem.

This, however, does not relieve us from the obligation of examining critically the Budget Estimates to satisfy ourselves that all possible economies have been effected. But it does seem to my delegation that if the Advisory Committee, whose painstaking work is deeply appreciated, and whose judgment we respect, has recommended reductions in many particular items of proposed expenditure, and the Secretary-General has expressed - as indeed he has expressed - his willingness to operate the essential business of the United Nations within the bounds of the economies suggested, then it might be wise at this time not to quarrel too much with this position.

In our view, a good attempt has been made to stabilize the United Nations Budget. Possibly, major economies may appear after the Secretary-General has prepared and given his assessment of the promised re-organization both of the administrative techniques and the organization that goes with it, and of the programmes themselves undertaken by the United Nations. In this we agree with the distinguished representative of Egypt, who yesterday suggested that the Secretary-General be given adequate time to complete a thorough study.

I need hardly point out that my delegation in the past has frequently spoken of the need of making our main objective the utilization of limited resources for the most useful purposes. Some delegations have referred to that almost hardy perennial - documentation. In fact, we have had a practical illustration of a truckload of it. But at the very time that I was looking at the load of documentation, I found myself in the unfortunate position of, on the one hand, agreeing that we had too much paper to read and yet, on the other hand, wanting just one piece of paper more! Most of the members here will have had