

stated that his Delegation believed the Assembly legally bound to pay the awards, but in view of the conflict of opinion in the Assembly, thought the questions should be referred to a "higher judicial authority". Canada co-sponsored with the United Kingdom and Colombia a resolution which referred the question to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion as to whether the Assembly could reject awards of the Administrative Tribunal and, if so, on what grounds. The resolution was approved by the Assembly by a vote of 41 to 6 with 12 abstentions (including the United States). The Assembly elected a United States citizen to replace the Czech member of the Administrative Tribunal and re-elected Lord Crook, the United Kingdom member who was one of the three who made the disputed awards.

The Assembly endorsed the Secretary-General's far reaching proposals for simplifying the top structure of the Secretariat and reducing the total staff of the Secretariat by 15 per cent during the next two years, largely by a policy of not filling vacancies as they occur.

1954 Budget

After a close examination during the course of the 30 meetings of the estimates prepared by the Secretary-General for the 1954 financial year, the General Assembly approved on December 9 a budget of \$47,827,110 for the 1954 administrative expenses of the United Nations. This represents a reduction of some \$296,290 from the original estimate prepared by the Secretary-General. This year's budget is less by approximately \$900,000 than the 1953 budget. In addition, in submitting his proposals for the reorganization of the Secretariat to the Fifth Committee, Mr. Hammarskjold declared that, if the tasks of the Secretariat were re-examined and the other revisions that he proposed were carried out, a financial saving of up to one million dollars might be achieved during the course of the year.

After various adjustments are made to this figure, a net figure of \$41,300,000 is reached to which contributions must be made by member states. Assessments of the various countries for the United Nations budget are approved by the Assembly on the basis of a report from the Committee on Contributions. This Committee annually examines the assessments of member states with reference to the various factors which determine countries ability to pay. On November 27, the Assembly approved the report of the Committee on Contributions recommending that the United States contribution be reduced from 35.12 per cent to 33.33 per cent, and the contribution of the Soviet Union be raised from 12.28 per cent to 14.15 per cent. The decision to lower the United States contribution was in accordance with a General Assembly directive in 1952 to the effect that from January 1, 1954 no member state should contribute more than one-third of the total Assessment. Several minor changes were recommended by the Committee. The Canadian assessment remains at last year's level of 3.3 per cent. During the debate strong objections were made by the Soviet Union and satellite countries to the proposed up-grading of the contributions of Eastern European countries. Most delegations spoke against these objections, however, pointing out that, while the Soviet Union and the satellites were pleading in the General Assembly that their economies were still badly dislocated from the ravages of the Second World War, their official publications were announcing daily the strength of the Eastern European economies and the rapid advances in the production of raw materials and the manufacture of capital and consumer goods.