

The 1956 gross budget of \$48.56 million which had been approved on December 16, 1955 at the tenth session of the General Assembly was increased to \$50.68 million by supplementary items amounting to \$2.12 million. These supplementary items included the following:

Commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security	\$ 555,000
Costs relating to the emergency sessions of the General Assembly held in November 1956 and meetings of the Security Council	400,000
Other miscellaneous unforeseen requirements	1,162,000
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Total of supplementaries approved by the General Assembly on December 7, 1956.....	\$ 2,117,000
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It was estimated that the United Nations casual revenue of 1956 would amount to \$3.05 million.

The Secretary-General suggested in June 1956 that the total gross budget for 1957 would amount to \$48.25 million. Between that date and December 21, 1956, additional requirements totalling \$556,950 had arisen, and on the latter date the General Assembly approved a budget of \$48.81 million. Before the close of the eleventh session still further additions became necessary, and on February 27, 1957 the General Assembly approved a new gross figure of \$50.81 million. The major item in the increases was \$1.75 million to provide an additional amount for salaries, allowances and benefits for staff. Estimated casual revenue for 1957 is \$2.15 million. During the eleventh session considerable attention was given to improving the form of the budget with a view to some simplification in its preparation and some advantages in its administration.

Throughout the eleventh session Canada took the position that the 1957 budget should be set at a figure which would allow the most effective programme at the lowest possible cost. The high level of \$50.81 million was reached, not for want of careful scrutiny on the part of the delegations, but because of higher costs for both goods and services and of new developments requiring additional expenditure. The United Kingdom Delegation introduced a resolution, which was later withdrawn, seeking to impose a ceiling on the United Nations annual budget. It is envisaged that the question of establishing priorities for United Nations undertakings and services will be given special attention at the twelfth session in the autumn of 1957.

When reviewing the many activities of the United Nations in relation to their cost, special care is given so that as large a proportion of its resources as possible can be devoted to substantive work, and all other activities are restricted to the greatest extent possible without impairing the usefulness and efficiency of the organization as a whole. One activity which always receives special scrutiny at the time of each budget review is the work of the United Nations Department of Public Information.

In 1955 a Special Interne Programme was begun on an experimental basis and carried on through 1956. The purpose of the programme is twofold: (1) to enable a selected group of about 20 young people from