

18. SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

By a resolution of December 14, 1936, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Economic and Social Council, to make provision for the continuance of the advisory social welfare functions of UNRRA wherever the need was particularly urgent. Accordingly, the Secretary-General was authorized to include in the budget of the United Nations for 1947 the necessary funds to make social welfare experts available to governments requesting their services, to grant fellowships to welfare officials, to provide advice in the manufacture of prosthetic appliances and to furnish technical assistance in the recruiting of social welfare workers for governments of Member States devastated by war.¹

In February, 1947, the Economic and Social Council, on the advice of the Social Commission and the Temporary Social Welfare Committee, recommended that the Secretary-General make no distinction when considering applications for advisory social welfare services between countries formerly receiving assistance from UNRRA except in terms of their need. The Council also recommended that some of the funds available should be used to assist certain of the Member States which had not received UNRRA assistance but, which, being less developed areas, required social welfare service. At the Second Session of the General Assembly, in the discussions in the Third Committee (Social) arising from the report of the Economic and Social Council on social welfare services, the representative of the United Kingdom proposed a large scale reduction in the budgetary provision for these services. It was the United Kingdom view that the United Nations in the field of advisory social welfare should act only as a stimulating influence rather than as an operating agency. This view, however, did not find favour with the majority of the Committee.

¹ See *The United Nations, 1946*, Department of External Affairs, Conference Series No. 3, 1946, pp. 100 and 101.