

United Nations staff assessment plan, a form of United Nations income tax. Employees who are required to pay national income tax on salaries and wages received from the United Nations are reimbursed, and the balance of the assessments is credited as miscellaneous income.

Before the session, the nine-member expert Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions<sup>1</sup> subjected these estimates to close scrutiny and recommended reductions amounting, in total, to approximately one and a half per cent in most sections of the budget. Subsequently the Secretary-General submitted supplementary estimates and revised estimates for some sections which were also examined in detail by the Advisory Committee before submission to the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee of the General Assembly for consideration.

Most of the recommendations were accepted by the Fifth Committee, which ultimately recommended to the General Assembly that the 1954 appropriation be \$47,827,110<sup>2</sup> and that estimated miscellaneous income be approved at \$6,760,000, thus leaving a net expenditure figure of \$41,067,110.

For the purpose of assessment of contributions from member states, the net expenditure must be adjusted. Supplementary appropriations of \$1,541,750 must be added and a deduction of \$1,308,860 must be made, representing accounting adjustments in appropriations and income of previous years. The figure on which assessments of member states are levied is, therefore, \$41,300,000, or \$2,900,000 less than the comparable figure for 1953. The Canadian share of this amount (at 3.30 per cent) is \$1,362,900 (U.S.).<sup>3</sup>

The discussion of the budget in the Fifth Committee was prefaced by a statement from the Secretary-General indicating that by and large he would not contest the Advisory Committee's recommendations for cuts in his estimates. Commenting on the wisdom of the Secretary-General in permitting the Fifth Committee to come to its own conclusions without any special pleading on his part, the chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that a tight budget was a healthy feature in an administrative structure such as the United Nations, and that should the Secretary-General be confronted with real hardship in the maintenance of necessities and be unable to move within the estimates as recommended, the Advisory Committee would help him.

The Canadian Delegation, satisfied that the budget had been fairly satisfactorily stabilized in terms of the existing United Nations administrative structure, adopted the approach of the majority of delegations and supported, with occasional exceptions, the Advisory Committee's recommendations. At the suggestion of the Canadian Representative, the Fifth Committee agreed that in future the Secretary-General should issue reports of actual budget expenses earlier than in the past so that they would be available at the time the Administrative and Budgetary Committee began its consideration

<sup>1</sup>For a description of the United Nations financial machinery, see *Canada and the United Nations 1949*, p. 174.

<sup>2</sup>For details of the budget finally approved by the General Assembly, see Appendix V.

<sup>3</sup>These are interim figures subject to minor adjustments to allow for final accounting entries before the end of the financial year.