

Dual DistributionSEVENTEENTH REPORT OF 1948 OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

Supplementary budget estimates for the financial year 1949:

United Nations Conciliation Commission in Palestine

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/284) submitting estimates of the costs of a United Nations Conciliation Commission in Palestine.
2. The Secretary-General's estimates have been based on the assumption that the relevant draft resolution adopted by the First Committee at its 227th meeting (A/C.1/424)* will be approved by the General Assembly, and a similar consideration governs the present recommendations of the Advisory Committee. Therefore, in the event of a policy decision on the part of the General Assembly involving a variation in the figures submitted, the necessary adjustments to the budgetary provision will be made.
3. In the changing circumstances of the Palestine situation, the estimates presented by the Secretary-General are necessarily of an imprecise and speculative character. They will only be realizable in so far as the various hypotheses on which they are based conform generally to the facts.
4. The Committee notes that, under the terms of paragraph 2 (d) of the aforementioned resolution, a request from the Security Council is a condition precedent to the assumption by the Conciliation Commission of all the functions now assigned to the United Nations Mediator on Palestine and to the Truce Commission. The budgetary implications would, however, not be affected by a continuance of the Mediator's Office in Palestine, even though the Conciliation Commission may not be able to take over fully from the beginning of 1949.

* The text of this resolution is now reproduced in document A/776.

5. -- The estimates submitted by the Secretary-General provide for expenditure at approximately half the rate hitherto incurred by the Mediator's Mission to Palestine. The Committee believes that further economies may prove possible of achievement. It feels moreover that, in view of the fact that the fourth regular session of the General Assembly will be held in September 1949, the estimates might well be submitted on the basis of nine months.

6. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that, subject to the foregoing reservations, estimates providing for expenditure of \$3,000,000 for a period of nine months should be approved.

7. The Committee will request the Secretary-General to submit to its spring session a detailed report on the administrative arrangements that he has been able to make, together with a statement of the expenditures actually incurred during January and February 1949.
