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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**OFFICIAL RECORDS : FIFTEENTH SESSION
SUPPLEMENT No. 10 (A/4566)**

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Report of the Committee on Contributions

I. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

1. The nineteenth session of the Committee on Contributions was convened at the Headquarters of the United Nations from 17 to 20 October 1960 and from 1 to 4 November 1960. The following members were present:

Mr. Raymond T. Bowman

Mr. P. Chernyshev

Mr. José Correa

Mr. A. H. M. Hillis

Mr. C. S. Jha

Mr. F. Nouredin Kia

Mr. Sidney Pollock

Mr. Pareja y Paz Soldan

2. Mr. René Charron and Mr. Jerzy Michalowski were unable to attend the session. They designated Mr. Maurice Viaud and Mr. Mieczyslaw Blusztajn to represent them. The Committee accepted these designations on the understanding that the substitutes would remain in consultation with the members they represented.

3. The Committee re-elected Mr. Pollock as Chairman and elected Mr. Jha as Vice-Chairman.

II. TERMS OF REFERENCE

4. Under rule 161 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Committee shall "advise the General Assembly on the assessments to be fixed for new Members". The Committee therefore considered the rates to be recommended for the following States admitted to membership in the United Nations at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly: Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Leopoldville), Cyprus, Dahomey, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Togo and Upper Volta. The Committee also examined the desirability of integrating the assessments for the new Member States in the existing scale of assessments approved by the General Assembly for Members' contributions to the United Nations budget for the financial years 1959, 1960 and 1961 (resolution 1308 A (XIII), para. 1).

III. ASSESSMENTS OF THE NEW MEMBER STATES

5. In accordance with the procedure established at the eighth session of the General Assembly, Member States were informed of the dates for the meetings of the Committee as soon as they had been fixed. In the case of the new Member States, they were at the same time requested to submit national income estimates or any related statistical and economic information that might be available for their countries, or any other relevant information that they would wish the Committee to take into account in arriving at its recommendations to the General Assembly.

6. Under its terms of reference, the Committee uses national income estimates as a guide in determining the relative capacities to pay of Member States. For the general review of the scale in 1958, when the existing scale which was approved by the General Assembly for the years 1959-1961 was drawn up, the Committee used as a basis for its work averages of national income estimates for the three-year period 1955-1957. Consequently, as a basis for assessing the new Members for the year of admission and for 1961 the Committee decided to use as a guide national income estimates for the same three-year period.

7. On reviewing the statistical material available for the new Members, the Committee found that official estimates for all the three years 1955-1957 were available only in a few cases. For the majority of the new Member States, the Committee had at its disposal separate national income statistics with incomplete coverage. The Committee also noted that there were certain qualifications attached to most of the national and *per caput* income statistics available for the new Members, such as the existence of non-monetary sectors in the economies of the majority of the countries under review, and that there was likely to be some margin of error in the population estimates.

8. In order to ensure that it would have at its disposal as complete information as possible, the Committee at its first meeting decided to give the new Member States a further opportunity to make available to the Committee, not later than 31 October, any additional relevant statistical or economic data that they might wish to submit, particularly national income estimates for the base period 1955-1957.

9. In response to this request, the majority of the new Member States submitted additional information on

national income estimates, population figures and other related economic data for their respective countries. The Committee took into account the available information, recognizing the limitations involved. In arriving at the rates of assessment for the new Members, the Committee applied to these States the same allowance for low *per caput* income as for all other Member States and took into account other relevant factors affecting capacity to pay, as mentioned in the Committee's terms of reference.

10. In the case of the Congo (Leopoldville), not having sufficient information to enable it to judge the extent of the present impairment in that Member's capacity to pay, the Committee decided to recommend that it should be assessed at the "floor" contribution of 0.04 per cent pending further examination at the next session of the Committee.

11. As a result of its review, the Committee decided to recommend, subject to the reservation in paragraph 10 above for the Congo (Leopoldville), that the percentage rates of assessment for the new Member States should be as follows:

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Percentage rate of assessment</i>
Cameroun	0.04
Central African Republic.....	0.04
Chad	0.04
Congo (Brazzaville)	0.04
Congo (Leopoldville)	0.04
Cyprus	0.04
Dahomey	0.04
Gabon	0.04
Ivory Coast	0.06
Madagascar	0.06
Mali	0.04
Niger	0.04
Nigeria	0.21
Senegal	0.06
Somalia	0.04
Togo	0.04
Upper Volta	0.04

12. Having agreed on the basic percentage rates of assessments, the Committee considered the desirability of incorporating the additional percentage rates for the new Member States in the existing scale of assessments. It reached the unanimous conclusion that, since the Committee was required to undertake in 1961 a general review of the scale (resolution 1308 A (XIII), para. 2) for the purpose of establishing a new three-year scale for 1962-1964, it should not at present attempt to adjust the scale to include the new Members. It recommends therefore that for 1961 the assessments for the new Members be additional to the scale of assessments as approved by the General Assembly for Member States' contributions to the United Nations budget for 1959, 1960 and 1961,¹ and that the new Members' contributions be treated as miscellaneous income, the benefits of which will be available to all Members.

ASSESSMENT OF THE NEW MEMBER STATES FOR THE YEAR OF ADMISSION

13. Under regulation 5.8 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, "New Members shall be required to make a contribution for the year in which they become Members and to provide their proportion

¹ The existing United Nations scale of assessments as approved by the General Assembly for the years 1959, 1960 and 1961 (resolutions 1308 A (XIII) and 1373 A (XIV)) is set forth in annex I to the present report.

of the total advances to the Working Capital Fund at rates to be determined by the General Assembly".

14. As regards the contribution to be paid by new Member States for the year of admission, the General Assembly, at the second part of its first session, decided (resolution 69 (I) of 14 December 1946) as follows:

"That new Members be required to contribute to the annual budget of the year in which they are first admitted, at least 33⅓ per cent of their percentage assessment determined for the following year, applied to the budget for the year of their admission."

15. The dates on which the new Members now under consideration were admitted are:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of admission</i>
Cameroun	20 September 1960
Central African Republic.....	20 September 1960
Chad	20 September 1960
Congo (Brazzaville)	20 September 1960
Congo (Leopoldville)	20 September 1960
Cyprus	20 September 1960
Dahomey	20 September 1960
Gabon	20 September 1960
Ivory Coast	20 September 1960
Madagascar	20 September 1960
Niger	20 September 1960
Somalia	20 September 1960
Togo	20 September 1960
Upper Volta	20 September 1960
Mali	28 September 1960
Senegal	28 September 1960
Nigeria	7 October 1960

16. In the light of resolution 69 (I), the applicable proportion for these new Members would appear to be one-third of the percentage assessment for 1961 applied to the budget for 1960. By General Assembly decisions, exceptions have, however, been made to the one-third rule and the prescribed minimum has been reduced for practically all new Members admitted since 1955, as will be seen from the annexed statement of the proportion of assessments paid by new Members for their year of admission (annex II).

17. In considering the question of the assessment of the new Members for the year of admission, reference was made to the financial difficulties and the many problems with which these newly independent States would inevitably be faced during the first years of independence, as recognized by the General Assembly and by the Economic and Social Council.² Taking into account the capacity to pay of the new Members and the imponderable factors referred to above, the Committee reached the conclusion that, in the light of previous General Assembly decisions, it would be appropriate to recommend that the new Member States should contribute for the year 1960 one-sixth of the assessment for the full year.

18. In respect of the new Members' advances to the Working Capital Fund, the Committee decided to recommend that the same procedure be followed as in the case of Guinea (resolution 1373 A (XIV), para. 3), which would mean that the advances of the new Members would be calculated by applying their percentage rates of assessment to the authorized level of the Fund, and that these advances would be additional to the authorized level of the Fund pending the inclusion of the rates of assessments for the new Members in the scale of 100 per cent.

² General Assembly resolutions 1414 (XIV) and 1415 (XIV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 768 (XXX).

19. The Committee on Contributions therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report of the Committee on Contributions,

"1. Takes note of the said report;

"2. Resolves that for the year 1961 the assessment for the new Member States shall be as follows:

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Cameroun	0.04
Central African Republic	0.04
Chad	0.04
Congo (Brazzaville)	0.04
Congo (Leopoldville)	0.04
Cyprus	0.04
Dahomey	0.04
Gabon	0.04
Ivory Coast	0.06
Madagascar	0.06
Mali	0.04
Niger	0.04
Nigeria	0.21

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Senegal	0.06
Somalia	0.04
Togo	0.04
Upper Volta	0.04

These rates shall be in addition to the scale of assessments of 100 per cent contained in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 1308 A (XIII) of 10 December 1958, and shall be applied to the same bases of assessment as for all other Member States;

"3. Resolves that for the year of admission the new Members shall contribute one-sixth of the percentage rates listed in paragraph 1 above applied to the net budget for 1960;

"4. Resolves that the advances to the Working Capital Fund by the new Member States, under regulation 5.8 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, shall be calculated by applying the percentages listed in paragraph 1 above to the authorized level of the Fund and shall be carried as advances additional to the authorized level of the Fund pending the inclusion of the rates of assessment for the new Members in the scale of 100 per cent."

IV. OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

STATUS OF THE COLLECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

20. Under its terms of reference, one of the functions of the Committee is "to consider and report to the General Assembly on the action to be taken if Members fall into default with their contributions", and, in this connexion, it shall "advise the Assembly on the action to be taken with regard to the application of Article 19 of the Charter". As at present no Member State is in arrears in the payment of its contribution to the extent that Article 19 of the Charter would apply, no action of the Committee was required in this respect.

21. The Committee took note of a report by the Secretary-General on the status of payment of contributions as at 31 October 1960, which showed that a total of \$14.4 million remained unpaid in respect of Member States' contributions to the United Nations regular budget for the financial years 1958, 1959 and 1960, and that unpaid assessments relating to the United Nations Emergency Force for the years 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960 totalled \$22.7 million. No arrears of contributions were due for prior years. The Committee viewed with concern the substantial amounts outstanding as indicated by the above figures and would wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to this situation.

COLLECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN CURRENCIES OTHER THAN UNITED STATES DOLLARS

22. The General Assembly, at its thirteenth session (resolution 1308 A (XIII)), authorized the Secretary-General to accept, at his discretion and after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, a portion of the contributions of Member States for the financial years 1959, 1960 and 1961 in currencies other than United States dollars.

23. The Committee in its 1959 report³ outlined the arrangements made by the Secretary-General under this authority for payment of part of the 1959 contributions in currencies other than United States dollars. For 1960, Member States were notified that payment of contributions might be accepted in the following nine currencies: Belgian francs, Chilean pesos, Ethiopian dollars, French francs, Mexican pesos, Netherlands guilders, pounds sterling, Swiss francs and Thailand baht. Twelve Member States availed themselves of the option to pay in one or other of the non-U.S. currencies to the equivalent of a total of \$3.2 million.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

24. The Committee decided to open its next session on 9 May 1961 at United Nations Headquarters.

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/4112), paras. 27-29.*

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

United Nations scale of assessments for 1959, 1960 and 1961 as adopted by the General Assembly (resolutions 1308 A (XIII) and 1373 A (XIV))

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Scale of assessments Per cent</i>	<i>Member State</i>	<i>Scale of assessments Per cent</i>
1. Afganistan	0.06	44. Jordan	0.04
2. Albania	0.04	45. Laos	0.04
3. Argentina	1.11	46. Lebanon	0.05
4. Australia	1.79	47. Liberia	0.04
5. Austria	0.43	48. Libya	0.04
6. Belgium	1.30	49. Luxembourg	0.06
7. Bolivia	0.04	50. Mexico	0.71
8. Brazil	1.02	51. Morocco	0.14
9. Bulgaria	0.16	52. Nepal	0.04
10. Burma	0.08	53. Netherlands	1.01
11. Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	0.47	54. New Zealand	0.42
12. Cambodia	0.04	55. Nicaragua	0.04
13. Canada	3.11	56. Norway	0.49
14. Ceylon	0.10	57. Pakistan	0.40
15. Chile	0.27	58. Panama	0.04
16. China	5.01	59. Paraguay	0.04
17. Colombia	0.31	60. Peru	0.11
18. Costa Rica	0.04	61. Philippines	0.43
19. Cuba	0.25	62. Poland	1.37
20. Czechoslovakia	0.87	63. Portugal	0.20
21. Denmark	0.60	64. Romania	0.34
22. Dominican Republic	0.05	65. Saudi Arabia	0.06
23. Ecuador	0.06	66. Spain	0.93
24. El Salvador	0.05	67. Sudan	0.06
25. Ethiopia	0.06	68. Sweden	1.39
26. Federation of Malaya	0.17	69. Thailand	0.16
27. Finland	0.36	70. Tunisia	0.05
28. France	6.40	71. Turkey	0.59
29. Ghana	0.07	72. Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	1.80
30. Greece	0.23	73. Union of South Africa	0.56
31. Guatemala	0.05	74. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	13.62
32. Haiti	0.04	75. United Arab Republic	0.32
33. Honduras	0.04	76. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7.78
34. Hungary	0.42	77. United States of America	32.51
35. Iceland	0.04	78. Uruguay	0.12
36. India	2.46	79. Venezuela	0.50
37. Indonesia	0.47	80. Yemen	0.04
38. Iran	0.21	81. Yugoslavia	0.35
39. Iraq	0.09		
40. Ireland	0.16		
41. Israel	0.14		
42. Italy	2.25		100.00
43. Japan	2.19	82. Guinea	0.04

ANNEX II

Statement of proportion of assessments paid by new Member States for their year of admission

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of admission</i>	<i>Proportion of assessment paid</i>
1. Afghanistan	19 November 1946	1/3
2. Iceland		
3. Sweden		
4. Thailand		
5. Yemen	16 December 1946	Nil
6. Pakistan	30 September 1947	1/3
7. Burma	30 September 1947	a
	19 April 1948	2/3

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of admission</i>	<i>Proportion of assessment paid</i>
8. Israel	11 May 1949	7/12
9. Indonesia	28 September 1950	1/3
10. Albania	14 December 1955	1/9
11. Austria		
12. Bulgaria		
13. Cambodia		
14. Ceylon		
15. Finland		
16. Hungary		
17. Ireland		
18. Italy		
19. Jordan		
20. Laos	12 November 1956	1/9
21. Libya		
22. Nepal		
23. Portugal		
24. Romania		
25. Spain	18 December 1956	1/9
26. Morocco		
27. Sudan	8 March 1957	1/3
28. Tunisia	17 September 1957	1/6
29. Japan	12 December 1958	1/9
30. Ghana		
31. Federation of Malaya.....		
32. Guinea		

* The Government of India paid the total 1947 and 1948 assessments for India and Pakistan subject to an intergovernmental adjustment between the two States.