

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



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11 April 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINE REFUGEES

Note by the Secretary-General

1. On 12 December 1949, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions transmitted to the Secretary-General a memorandum, reference AC/256, in which the Committee concurred in an advance to the Palestine Refugee Fund from the Working Capital Fund of a sum not exceeding \$3,000,000 under the terms of General Assembly resolution 302 (IV).

2. In its memorandum, the Committee requested that a statement be presented at the next session showing:

(a) The amounts withdrawn from the Working Capital Fund for the purposes, and within the limit, set forth above; and

(b) The amounts received as voluntary contributions to the Palestine Refugee Fund. The statement should distinguish between contributions in U.S. dollars and those in other currencies.

Such a statement is attached (annex) for the information of the Committee. It will be observed that the total of \$3,000,000 previously authorized has been drawn in full.

3. The Secretary-General wishes to place before the Committee a request for a further advance from the Working Capital Fund of \$1,500,000, subject to the terms of the resolution 302 (IV).

The Secretary-General is informed by the Director of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWAPRNE) that the funds on hand as of 1 May will consist of about \$320,000 in U.S. dollars held as a reserve for the liquidation of United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees and the equivalent of \$700,000 in non-convertible pounds sterling. This latter sum is being held in view of the requirement to repay the equivalent of \$1,400,000 to the International Refugee Organization by 30 June 1950 unless this repayment date should be deferred by the IRO.

The Director also states that, as of 10 April, no contributions with respect to the new programme established by resolution 302 (IV) had been received from

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any Government with the exception of 100,000 Swiss francs contributed by Switzerland. The timing of a possible dollar contribution from the United States is uncertain.

Meantime, the Agency will require the equivalent of between \$1,400,000 and \$1,500,000 per month to continue the assistance programme at the UNRFR level, making no allowance for significant works projects. The \$320,000 in the liquidation reserve should, in the opinion of the Director, continue to be earmarked for liquidation purposes. Even if the entire \$700,000 in pounds sterling could be made convertible into local currencies and could, by arrangement with IRO, be utilized fully for the assistance programme, this amount would not finance the May operations.

4. To assure continuity in May and a basis for continuation of relief in June, pending receipt by late May of possible voluntary contributions in dollars, the Secretary-General seeks the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in advancing from the Working Capital Fund, for the purposes of resolution 302 (IV) sums up to \$1,500,000, under the terms of paragraph 14 of that resolution.

5. The following information is furnished regarding the position of the Working Capital Fund and expected requirements from 1 April to 31 July 1950 (other than in respect of this additional advance to UNRFR).

(a) As at 1 April 1950, advances from the Fund totaled approximately \$8,550,000 made up as follows:

For budgetary expenditure	\$4,600,000
UNRFR	3,000,000
Specialized agencies etc.	370,000
Other	580,000
	<hr/>
	\$8,550,000

leaving an available balance on hand of \$11,450,000.

(b) Expected requirements other than to finance budgetary expenditures are relatively minor; possibly \$50,000 may be needed for The Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization but this will be more than offset by the expected repayment by The World Health Organization of the final balance due by that Organization of \$98,500.

(c) Budgetary expenditures during the four months period are estimated at \$12,000,000. On the basis of 1949 experience, contribution collections

/should amount

should amount to \$6,400,000 during that period; this seems reasonably certain of realization inasmuch as advice has already been received that the United Kingdom contribution of some \$3,000,000 is expected to be paid during April. The net amount therefore required for budgetary expenditures will be \$5,600,000 and on this basis it may be expected that the available balance at 31 July 1950 would be \$5,800,000, which would be the normal "low point" for the year according to past experience.

(d) After setting aside the reserve of \$2,000,000 to cover possible commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security or urgent economic rehabilitation under resolution 357 (IV), paragraph (a), the net available balance is estimated at \$3,800,000 as of 31 July 1950.

6. The additional advance, if authorized, will be made subject to the same general conditions attaching to the previous advances. Thus, while the General Assembly resolution provides that any advances are to be repaid not later than 31 December 1950, it has been the understanding that all monies subsequently received by the Fund in U.S. dollars shall be first used to reimburse the Working Capital Fund for all outstanding advances.

Annex

Palestine Refugee Fund

Amounts withdrawn from the Working Capital Fund and voluntary contributions

1. Amounts withdrawn from the Working Capital Fund:

Withdrawals made from the Working Capital Fund,
under the terms of General Assembly resolution
302 (IV), and deposited to the account of
UNRPR as follows:

3 January 1950
10 January 1950
9 February 1950

\$ 1,000,000.00
1,000,000.00
1,000,000.00

Total:

\$ 3,000,000.00

2. Voluntary contributions from Governments:

Cash - in U.S. dollars \$16,010,000.00
Cash - in other currencies 6,836,383.00

\$22,846,383.00
2,997,215.00

Commodities (partly estimated)

Local government expenditures for
direct aid to refugees and services to
UNRPR (partly estimated)

6,880,872.00

Government donations to National Red
Cross and Middle East Missions

595,327.00

Total:

\$33,319,797.00

On 20 January 1950, the Secretary-General addressed an appeal to all governments urging voluntary contributions to the special fund for assistance to Palestine refugees in accordance with paragraph 13 of resolution 302 (IV). Responses to the Secretary-General's letter have been received from nineteen Governments of which eleven member Governments of United Nations and three non-member Governments indicate no contribution will be possible; four Governments indicate contribution is under consideration and one (Switzerland) contributed 100,000 Swiss francs for use by UNRWAFRNE, which is included in the above statement.
