

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Twelfth Ordinary Session
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CM/264

THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS



CM 0264

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BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

At the Fifth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers which preceded the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Accra, Ghana, in 1965, the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters was established and its members elected. The elected members are the United Arab Republic, Nigeria, Senegal, Burundi and Gambia.

According to Section IX Paragraph 4(1) of the Financial Rules and Regulations, the term of office of the Advisory Committee is fixed for three years. It was therefore expected that the Advisory Committee as constituted in Accra in 1965 should function for three years. Although they were appointed in 1965, they did not start work until early 1966. Since they took office in January, 1966, their term of office would have come to an end at the end of 1968. This matter was reported by the General Secretariat to the Council of Ministers in Algiers, requesting the Council to take some decision on the election of a new Committee. The Council deliberated at some length, not only on the term of office of the Advisory Committee, but also on its composition. In the end the Council decided that the present members of the Committee should continue to hold office until the end of the Twelfth Session of the Council in Addis Ababa.

It should be recalled that during the deliberation of the term of office of the Advisory Committee, some views were expressed regarding some of the unfinished job of the Committee namely the review of the Structure and Salaries of the General Secretariat. It was considered by many delegates at Algiers that it was necessary to extend the term of office of the Advisory Committee in order to enable them complete the study they had undertaken in consultation with the General Secretariat.

This was one of the important reasons, among others, that led

the Council to extend the term of office of the members of the **Advisory Committee** to the Twelfth Session of the Council of Ministers.

It should be observed that in the report of the Advisory Committee which the Council will study under one of the items of the Agenda, some recommendations have been made on this subject. The recommendations are to the effect that membership of the Committee should be expanded to eight and that the present members of the Committee should be eligible for re-election in order to maintain continuity in the affairs of the Committee. It should be recalled that the question of continuity was also discussed by some delegates in their interventions on this subject in Algiers. The Committee's recommendations are therefore in keeping with the trend of discussions in Algiers on the subject. It will be also noted from the report of the Committee that in their effort to exercise some control on the financial affairs of the General Secretariat, they had recommended the establishment of a functional sub-committee consisting of members resident in Addis Ababa who should be consulted on certain proposed financial expenditure by the General Secretariat. This had been considered necessary by the Committee because of their wish to be associated with some of the great problems of expenditure encountered by the General Secretariat.

In making a decision on the term of office of the Committee, the Council may wish to consider:-

- (a) the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the expansion of its membership and the eligibility of the present members for re-election
 - (b) the need to maintain continuity in the working of the Committee; and
- the need to approve the Committee's recommendation to operate a resident sub-committee in Addis Ababa for the purpose of achieving effective consultation with the General Secretariat.



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