

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/3139

25 November 1968

Limited Distribution

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CONTRACTING PARTIES  
Twenty-Fifth Session

Original : English

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

### 1969 Budget Estimates for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT

#### Note by the Director-General

The United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has issued a further report<sup>1</sup> on the 1969 budget estimates for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT. The full text of the ACABQ report is not yet available but an extract received from New York by telegram is attached. This information is circulated to contracting parties in order to acquaint them with developments in the United Nations examination of the International Trade Centre's budget estimates.

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<sup>1</sup>The first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary questions was annexed to document L/3080.

Extracts from ACABQ Report on ITC Estimates for 1969 (L/7339)  
(Cable 5974 from Dr. Bannier, Chairman of ACABQ)

The Advisory Committee appreciates the attention paid by the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration of GATT to the observations on the initial estimates for the Centre which the Advisory Committee transmitted to the Secretary-General at its summer 1968 session. The Advisory Committee notes that as a result of the examination of the estimates by the GATT Committee in October 1968 that Committee recommended a reduction of \$80,000 from \$1,051,000 to \$971,000 to be achieved by reducing the number of new posts requested by one professional and two general service, by applying a factor of 50 per cent (instead of 20 per cent as originally proposed) for delayed recruitment, and by effecting economies in respect of expenses for consultants and travel of staff.

14. As already indicated in paragraph 9 above, the Advisory Committee does not believe that a further reduction in staff costs is impossible of achievement. Related savings in other areas may also be possible. However, because of the lateness of the present review in the joint budget process - which itself is still evolving as regards the Trade Centre - the Advisory Committee is not recommending an additional reduction in the total budget appropriations for the Centre in 1969. Nevertheless, the Committee hopes that the Centre itself can make further savings of some \$21,000 during the administration and execution of the 1969 appropriations for the Centre voted by the General Assembly. The Committee believes this to be a reasonable and achievable undertaking.

15. At this time, however, the Advisory Committee agrees that the estimates for the Centre for 1969 should be in the amount of \$971,000, and that the United Nations share, to be included under Section 20, Chapter X, of the United Nations budget for 1969, should be in the amount of \$299,400.

16. Looking to the future, the Advisory Committee believes that the two partner organizations should work out proper procedures for reviewing subsequent budget estimates for the Centre. Since the Centre has no governing organ of its own, it is important to ensure that agreed recommendations should be submitted by the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration and by the Advisory Committee to the Contracting Parties of GATT and to the General Assembly, respectively. The Advisory Committee intends to review this question and related matters with UNCTAD and GATT during its visit to Geneva in May 1969.

17. In conclusion, given the very rapid growth of the Centre in recent years, the Advisory Committee hopes that the two partner organizations will bear in mind the need for periodic stock-taking and assessing the practical results achieved by the Centre.