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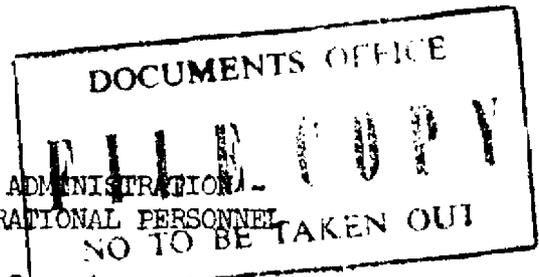
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
First Session

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
PROVISION OF EXECUTIVE AND OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL

Note by the Executive-Secretary



1. The importance of public administration as a basic element in the effort of Governments to accelerate economic and social progress had been repeatedly and increasingly emphasized in recent sessions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. It has been illustrated, moreover, by the steady rise in the number of requests for technical assistance in this field that have been received by the United Nations.
2. In most cases requests for aid in public administration have been met by the provision of fellowships, the establishment of training centres or the appointment of experts to assist Governments in an advisory capacity. In the early years of the United Nations technical assistance programmes only a few requests were received for experts as specialists to undertake operational, administrative or executive duties. In the last two or three years, however, there has been an increasing tendency for Governments to ask for aid in the actual operation of their administrative machinery.
3. The more the problems of technical assistance are studied and discussed with officials of the recipient Governments, the clearer it becomes that many Governments need, and wish to obtain, something more than advisory assistance. Important as good advice is, it is even more important, in some circumstances, to provide competent and experienced persons who will supplement advice by actual personal demonstration. These experts will illustrate their recommendations by actually doing a job; always, of course, in accordance with the policy and under the control of the government itself.

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4. One of the greatest advantages of such assistance is that it is the quickest and most effective way to accelerate the training of the local, counterpart personnel. Example is a much more effective teacher than precept. And one of the two basic purposes of the programme is the rapid training of the national staff of the country in which the expert serves.
5. The other major purpose of the programme is to give the requesting Government immediate assistance by improving current operations while the national personnel is being trained.
6. It may perhaps be useful to set forth the way in which the programme will work, and the responsibilities of the United Nations in relation both to Governments requesting this type of assistance, and to the specialists to be provided to Governments. These United Nations responsibilities are:
 - (a) to receive and process requests from Governments,
 - (b) to locate and recommend suitable nominees for appointment by Governments,
 - (c) to enter into agreements with Governments in regard to conditions and terms of employment of the experts,
 - (d) to pay initial and terminal transportation and similar charges of the experts,
 - (e) to assist the Governments in paying the experts when appointed,
 - (f) to arrange, as appropriate and feasible, for subsequent appointments for those experts who have proved successful in their initial assignments.
7. The General Assembly, in resolution 1256 (XIII) adopted at its thirteenth session, authorized the Secretary-General to assist Governments at their request to secure on a temporary basis the services of well qualified persons to perform duties of an executive or operational character as may be defined by the requesting Governments, and as servants of such Governments, it being understood that such duties shall normally include the training of nationals to assume as early as possible the responsibilities temporarily assigned to these internationally recruited experts. The Assembly also approved funds in the amount of \$200,000 to provide for an experimental development of this programme during 1959.
8. It is anticipated that Governments will now wish to consider the extent to which this form of assistance can be immediately useful to them.