



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/35/7/Add.1
16 June 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fifth session
Item 92 of the preliminary list*

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Revised estimates under sections 26 and 29A, Legal activities
and Department of Conference Services, Headquarters

Depositary functions of the Secretary-General and registration
and publication of treaties

Second report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions

1. In document A/C.5/34/40 and Corr.1 1/ and 2, the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session revised estimates under sections 26 and 29A, Legal activities and Department of Conference Services, Headquarters, related to the depositary functions of the Secretary-General and registration and publication of treaties. The additional resources requested for the biennium 1980-1981 amounted to \$393,000 (net of staff assessment), consisting of (a) \$197,800 in order to keep abreast of the projected workload level for 1980-1981 of 40 volumes (new format) of the Treaty Series per year (\$109,300 under section 26; \$69,300 under section 29A; and \$19,200 under section 28D); and (b) \$195,200 in order to implement the proposed plan for the elimination of the backlog in the publication of the Treaty Series (\$144,900 under section 26; \$18,700 under section 29A; and \$31,600 under section 28D).

2. It will be recalled that the Advisory Committee, in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, 2/ had recommended that

* A/35/50.

1/ The Advisory Committee was informed that note 1 in document A/C.5/34/40/Corr.1 relates to para. 7 instead of para. 8.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth session, Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7), para. 26.9.

action on the Secretary-General's proposal for additional resources to ensure the issuance of the basic 40 volumes a year be deferred until the General Assembly had considered the separate report of the Secretary-General on his proposed plan of action to eliminate the backlog in the publication of the Treaty Series. The report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/40 and Corr.1 and 2) was issued late in the session, and neither the Advisory Committee nor the Fifth Committee was able to consider it in detail.

3. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee, in an oral report to the Fifth Committee, recommended that the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session should appropriate lump-sum temporary assistance funds in the amount of \$47,000 ^{3/} for the 1980 portion of the costs related to the issuance of 40 volumes a year, it being understood that the Advisory Committee would consider the report of the Secretary-General in detail at its spring 1980 session and present its views to the Assembly at the beginning of the thirty-fifth session. The Assembly approved that recommendation.

4. In paragraphs 6 to 18 of his report, the Secretary-General recapitulated the proposals contained in the programme budget for 1980-1981 for the publication of the Treaty Series. The additional resources requested by him for 1980-1981 to undertake the publication of 40 volumes per year (new format) total \$197,800, net of staff assessment. Of that amount, \$178,600 relates to established posts and common staff costs under sections 26 (\$109,300) and 29A (\$69,300) and \$19,200 to common service costs under section 28D (A/C.5/34/40 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 30 (a)). The related staffing proposals are summarized as follows:

Section 26. Office of Legal Affairs - Treaty Section

- (i) Established posts:
 - One P-2 and one G-4/1 for the depositary function (para. 15);
 - Two G-4/1 for the registration function (para. 16);
- (ii) Conversion from temporary posts to established posts:
 - One G-4/1 for the depositary function (para. 15);
 - One G-4/1 for the registration function (para. 16);
- (iii) Reclassification:
 - One G-4/1 to the principal level (G-5) for the publication function (para. 17).

^{3/} Consisting of \$35,000 under section 26 to provide four months of temporary assistance at the P-2 level and 18 months of General-Service temporary assistance, and \$12,000 under section 29A for four months of temporary assistance at the P-2 or P-3 level (A/C.5/34/SR.84).

Section 29A. Department of Conference Services - Publishing Division

(i) Established posts:

One P-3 copy preparer and one P-2 proof-reader for the Treaty Series team (para. 26).

5. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's request for \$197,800 for the issuance of 40 volumes per year (new format) thereby keeping abreast of the projected workload level for 1980-1981. Taking into account the \$47,000 already appropriated (see para. 3 above), the amount recommended for approval would be \$150,800, allocated as follows: \$74,300 under section 26; \$57,300 under section 29A; and \$19,200 under section 28D.

6. In paragraphs 19 to 28 of his report, the Secretary-General proposes a plan to eliminate the backlog in the publication of the Treaty Series. According to the Secretary-General, the total backlog at the beginning of 1980 stood at 260 volumes (new format). The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that the backlog went back to 1973 registrations.

7. Under the plan proposed by the Secretary-General, the backlog in the publication of the Treaty Series would be eliminated in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Basic workload level of 40 volumes (new format) per year</u>	<u>Elimination of backlog of 260 volumes (in number of volumes)</u>	<u>Additional resources required for elimination of backlog (at constant 1979 prices) a/</u> \$
1980	40	-	15,600
1981	40	10	131,800
1982	40	20	473,250
1983	40	40	772,000
1984	40	40	925,300
1985	40	40	925,300
1986	40	40	925,300
1987	40	40	848,350
1988	40	30	771,400
1989	40	-	170,000

a/ Totalling \$5,958,300, of which \$2,860,000 relates to external printing, \$1,325,900 to Publishing Division, \$1,002,900 to Treaty Section and \$769,500 to Translation Division (A/C.5/34/40/Corr.2, annex II).

/...

8. In annex I to his report, the Secretary-General provided details of the time-phasing of the additional staff needed on a temporary basis to implement the proposed plan for elimination of the backlog in the publication of the Treaty Series. A breakdown of the temporary posts envisaged is as follows:

Treaty Section (para. 24):

Two G-4/1	July 1980-December 1988
One P-2 and two G-4/1	July 1981-December 1988
Three G-4/1	July 1982-December 1988

Publishing Division (para. 27):

One P-3	July 1981-December 1989
One P-2 and one G-4/1	January 1982-December 1989
One P-3	July 1982-December 1988
One P-2	January 1983-December 1988
One P-3	July 1983-December 1988
One P-2	January 1984-December 1988

Translation Division (para. 23):

One P-4, two P-3 and three G-4/1	July 1982-June 1987
----------------------------------	---------------------

9. On that basis, the Secretary-General estimates the resources required in 1980-1981 to implement the plan for the elimination of the backlog at \$195,200 (net of staff assessment), consisting of \$101,200 for temporary posts and common staff costs under sections 26 (\$82,500) and 29A (\$18,700); \$62,400 for external printing under section 26; and \$31,600 for common service costs under section 28D (A/C.5/34/40, para. 30 (b)).

10. On the basis of its examination of the proposed plan for the elimination of the backlog in the publication of the Treaty Series and of the information provided to it, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the estimate in the amount of \$195,200 requested by the Secretary-General for 1980-1981.

11. The Committee has recommended approval of the staff resources requested by the Secretary-General for the biennium 1980-1981 on the understanding that they will be utilized solely for the tasks envisaged for them, namely the annual publication programme of the Treaty Series and the proposed elimination of the backlog. The Committee expects the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to ensure optimum management of resources made available to him for that purpose so that the plan of action proposed by him is carried out.

12. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the plan of action for the elimination of the backlog in the publication of the Treaty

/...

Series, on the understanding that this does not imply acceptance of the estimate of the totality of the resources involved over the next four biennia. In this connexion, the Committee notes the Secretary-General's statement in paragraph 29 of his report that it would be his intention should the Assembly approve the proposed plan, to report back to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session and biennially thereafter on the progress made toward the elimination of the backlog, indicating any adjustments that might be warranted to the resource requirements estimated for future years. The Committee intends to keep the question of publication of the Treaty Series under review and examine it in the context of future budget submissions.

13. On the basis of its recommendations in paragraphs 5 and 10 above, and subject to its observations in paragraphs 11 and 12 above, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the following additional amounts under the programme budget for 1980-1981:

Section 26: \$219,200

Section 29A: \$ 76,000

Section 28D: \$ 50,800

The consequential requirements under section 31 (Staff assessment) are \$61,400; they will be offset by additional revenue in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).
