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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

Administrative and financial implications of the draft  
resolution in document A/35/L.2/Rev.1

Fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/35/27 and Corr.1) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution in document A/35/L.2/Rev.1, on the situation in Kampuchea.
2. According to the Secretary-General, four operative paragraphs in the draft resolution have or may have administrative and financial implications. They are operative paragraphs 2, 4, 5 and 8. Operative paragraphs 2 and 4 relate to the convening early in 1981 of an international conference on Kampuchea. In operative paragraph 5, the General Assembly would call for, pending the settlement of the conflict, the stationing of a United Nations observer team on the Thai side of the border and the establishment of safe areas under United Nations supervision in western Kampuchea. Pursuant to operative paragraph 8, the Secretary-General would be requested to strengthen his efforts in co-ordinating relief assistance and in monitoring its distribution so as to ensure that the assistance reaches all those for whom it is intended.
3. The administrative and financial implications of the convening of an international conference on Kampuchea early in 1981 are discussed by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 2 to 7 of document A/C.5/35/27 and Corr.1. In paragraph 4, the Secretary-General estimates, on the basis of certain assumptions described in that paragraph, that a 12-week conference would cost approximately \$1,350,000. The representatives of the Secretary-General confirmed to the Advisory Committee that there was considerable uncertainty as to the venue, timing and duration of the proposed conference as well as other arrangements, such as the number of participants, documentation requirements and number of simultaneous meetings.

4. In paragraph 2 of document A/C.5/35/27 and Corr.1, the Secretary-General states that, should it become necessary in the light of developments, he would seek the concurrence of the Advisory Committee to enter into the necessary commitments initially under the terms of General Assembly resolution 34/231 of 20 December 1979 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1980-1981. The Advisory Committee agrees that, should present uncertainties persist until after the end of the current session of the Assembly, there would be need for the Secretary-General to seek the Committee's concurrence under the terms of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. It is the view of the Advisory Committee however, that if the present situation is clarified before the end of the current session of the Assembly, the Secretary-General should submit the estimates for the conference to the Assembly in an addendum to document A/C.5/35/27 and Corr.1. In the light of the foregoing, the Advisory Committee recommends that the travel of substantive staff related to the conference, for which the Secretary-General requests \$28,500 in paragraph 6 of document A/C.5/35/27 and Corr.1, should also be considered in the context of the further report to be submitted by the Secretary-General.

5. The potential administrative and financial implications of operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution are referred to by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 8 to 10 of document A/C.5/35/27 and Corr.1. In operative paragraph 5 (a) of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would call for the stationing of a United Nations observer team on the Thai side of the border. In paragraph 9 of document A/C.5/35/27 and Corr.1, the Secretary-General recalls that, as was stated in paragraph 7 of his report on the situation in Kampuchea (A/35/501), any such action would normally have to be carried out under the authority of the Security Council.

6. Should the Security Council authorize the stationing of a United Nations observer team before the end of the current session of the General Assembly, the related administrative and financial implications would have to be submitted to the Assembly for appropriate action. Should the authority of the Security Council be obtained after the end of the current session of the Assembly, there would be need to invoke the provisions of Assembly resolution 34/231 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1980-1981. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee recalls that, pursuant to paragraph 1 (a) of the resolution in question, the Secretary-General may enter into commitments not exceeding a total of \$2 million in 1981, without seeking the concurrence of the Committee, provided that he certifies that the said commitments relate to the maintenance of peace and security. The prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee would be required if such commitments exceeded \$2 million but were less than \$10 million. In accordance with paragraph 3 of the resolution a special session of the Assembly would have to be convened if commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security arose in an estimated total exceeding \$10 million.

7. In operative paragraph 5 (b) of draft resolution A/35/L.2/Rev.1, the General Assembly would call for the establishment of safe areas under United Nations supervision in western Kampuchea. In paragraph 10 of document A/C.5/35/27 and Corr.1, the Secretary-General states that the establishment of such areas would

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require the agreement of and co-operation of all parties to the conflict. Pending such an agreement and detailed arrangements for the proposed safe areas, the Secretary-General is unable to provide an estimate of financial requirements. If necessary, he will seek the concurrence of the Advisory Committee in due course under the provisions of Assembly resolution 34/231.

8. Operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/35/L.2/Rev.1 reads as follows:

"Deeply appreciates the efforts of the Secretary-General in co-ordinating relief assistance and in monitoring its distribution, and requests him to strengthen such efforts so as to ensure that the assistance reaches all those for whom it is intended".

9. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the functions of co-ordination and monitoring in 1980 have been carried out partly with the help of voluntary funds amounting to less than \$300,000, contributed by two donor Governments, and partly through the secondment of staff serving in approved posts in other parts of the Secretariat. The voluntary funds have been used to finance the post of Co-ordinator for United Nations Humanitarian Operations in Kampuchea, at the Under-Secretary-General level, since the beginning of the year, a post of Deputy Co-ordinator, at the D-2 level, at Bangkok as of 1 September 1980 and a General Service post. The representatives of the Secretary-General indicated that the voluntary funds in question would be exhausted by the end of 1980. They informed the Committee, in response to inquiries, that the grading of the post at Bangkok was determined without reference to the Classification Section of the Office of Personnel Services.

10. Operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/35/L.2/Rev.1 does not specify how the Secretary-General should strengthen his co-ordination and monitoring efforts. One possible interpretation might be that the Secretary-General should seek additional voluntary contributions and should redeploy more staff resources from other parts of the Secretariat. In paragraph 11 of document A/C.5/35/27 and Corr.1, however, the Secretary-General translates the request into requirements under the regular budget for the biennium 1980-1981. In response to inquiries, his representatives informed the Advisory Committee that the financing of the staff resources in the Co-ordinator's office under the regular budget would remove the uncertainties inherent in the present methods of financing.

11. In paragraph 11 of document A/C.5/35/27 and Corr.1, the Secretary-General estimates resource requirements at \$465,900 in 1981, consisting of \$388,700 under section 1 and \$77,200 under section 28D of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. A breakdown of those amounts is provided in paragraphs 12 to 17 of the document.

12. The staff resources being requested consist of seven temporary posts (one USG, two D-2, one D-1, one G-5 and two G-4/3). The Under-Secretary-General, one D-2 and the D-1 post, as well as two General Service posts (one G-5, one G-4/3), would be for the Co-ordinator's office at Headquarters in New York, and the second D-2 post and one G-4/3 post would be for the Deputy Co-ordinator's office at

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Bangkok. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the job descriptions contained in the annex to document A/C.5/35/27 and Corr.1 had not been communicated to the Classification Section for a determination of the proper grading of the posts. The Advisory Committee was also informed that the costing assumed that all the posts would be filled as of 1 January 1981. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the D-2 post for a Deputy Co-ordinator in New York was necessary in view of the frequent absences of the Co-ordinator. Bearing in mind, however, that the tasks of co-ordination and monitoring would be performed mainly in the field, the Advisory Committee was not convinced that there would be need for three senior posts in New York. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the request for the D-2 temporary post for a Deputy Co-ordinator in New York should not be approved. The consequential reduction in the estimate under section 1 would amount to \$68,900, comprising \$64,300 in salaries and common staff costs, \$600 in representation allowance, and \$4,000 for travel. As regards the request for \$77,200 for common services costs under section 28D, the Advisory Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that office accommodation for the Co-ordinator has already been provided within existing resources. In the circumstances, the Committee is of the opinion that the common services costs should be absorbed.

#### Recommendation

13. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution in document A/35/L.2/Rev.1, there would be need, in the light of the interpretation given by the Secretary-General in paragraph 11 of document A/C.5/35/27 and Corr.1 to the request addressed to him in operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, for an additional appropriation of \$319,800 under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. Approval of the temporary posts would also necessitate an additional appropriation of \$79,600 under section 31 (staff assessment), to be offset by an increase of the same amount in the estimate of income under income section 1 (income from staff assessment).

14. The Fifth Committee may also wish to inform the General Assembly that if operative paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of the draft resolution are to be implemented, the provisions of Assembly resolution 34/231 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses will have to be invoked, unless further appropriation action is taken by the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

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