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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa

Administrative and financial implications of the draft
resolution contained in document A/C.3/35/L.51/Rev.1

Thirteenth report of the Advisory Committee
on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/35/55 and Corr.1), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution in document A/C.3/35/L.51/Rev.1, adopted by the Third Committee at its 57th meeting, on 14 November 1980, concerning the convening at Geneva from 9 to 10 April 1981 of an international Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa.

2. The Secretary-General recapitulates in paragraphs 2 to 4 of his statement (A/C.5/35/55 and Corr.1) the actions requested of him, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, regarding preparations for and the convening of the Conference pursuant to operative paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the draft resolution. In paragraph 5, he states that operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution would authorize him to meet the expenses for the organization of the Conference under the regular budget of the United Nations.

3. In paragraph 10, the Secretary-General estimates the net additional requirements related to the implementation of operative paragraphs 3 to 5 of the draft resolution at \$432,200 under section 21 (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). The assumptions upon which those estimates are based are given in paragraphs 6 to 8 of his statement. In the table in paragraph 9, sections A to E and in foot-note 1, the Secretary-General indicates that the amount of \$432,200 being requested is net after deduction from the full cost (estimated at

\$702,500) of the portion which he believes can be met from existing resources (\$270,300).

4. In section A (i) of the table in paragraph 9 of his statement (A/C.5/35/55 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General indicates that there will be need for a temporary Conference secretariat for six months comprising 11 posts - 6 at the Professional and higher levels (one D-1, one P-5, two P-4 and two P-2) and 5 General Service posts. At the request of the Advisory Committee, the representatives of the Secretary-General identified the proposed functions of the temporary assistance posts requested and their related financing as follows:

<u>Post title</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Financing</u>
Chief of Conference secretariat	D-1	Existing resources
Senior Information Officer	P-5	Additional resources
Project Officer	P-4	Additional resources
Co-ordination Secretary	P-4	Existing resources
Administrative Officer	P-2	Existing resources
Junior Information Officer	P-2	Additional resources
2 General Service staff members		Existing resources
3 General Service staff members		Additional resources

The Secretary-General estimates the cost of the six additional temporary assistance posts at \$146,300.

5. In response to inquiries from the Advisory Committee, the representatives of the Secretary-General stated that recruitment for these six temporary assistance posts could be completed during December 1980 as a short list of candidates had already been prepared, and that the posts would be required for approximately one month after the Conference to allow for follow-up work. The Advisory Committee notes that, should recruitment be delayed for reasons beyond the control of the High Commissioner, the amount of \$146,300 would not be required in full.

6. The five posts charged to existing resources (one D-1, one P-4, and one P-2 and two General Service) are occupied. The officials concerned commenced preparatory work following the adoption by the Economic and Social Council on 24 July 1980 of resolution 1980/55 entitled "Situation of refugees in Africa".

7. The Secretary-General estimates at \$58,600 the additional requirements for staff travel and subsistence and consultant fees and travel during the preparatory phase (A/C.5/35/55 and Corr.1, para. 9, table, sects. B (i), (ii) and (iv)). In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that consultant work would be required on subjects such as health, nutrition and welfare of African refugees in various locations for which in-house expertise was not available in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or in the specialized agencies such as the World

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Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The Committee notes that, should it prove possible to combine some of the proposed missions, there would be savings under staff travel costs.

8. In sections (i), (ii) and (iii) of the table in paragraph 9 of his statement (A/C.5/35/55 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General estimates the cost of contractual services for public information activities (education and publicity material, radio programmes and short films and television production) for the Conference at \$130,000 in addition to \$70,000 which would be met from within existing resources. The representatives of the Secretary-General provided the Advisory Committee at its request with an outline of the proposed public information activities. The Committee notes from the outline that some of the areas to be covered are not new and that publicity is already being carried out in the context of existing information activities of UNHCR. In the circumstances, the Committee is of the opinion that it should be possible to meet from within existing resources a larger proportion of the costs estimated under contractual publicity activities.

9. In response to its inquiries, the Advisory Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that the estimate for general operating expenditures and supplies (A/C.5/35/55 and Corr.1, para. 9, table, sect. E) covers communications, local transport, office supplies and materials and other expenses of the various missions to be undertaken during the preparatory phase of the Conference. The Secretary-General indicates in section E of the table that out of the total estimate of \$45,000 under this heading \$30,000 would be met from existing resources.

10. The Secretary-General estimates the conference-servicing requirements at \$53,000 on a full-cost basis (A/C.5/35/55 and Corr.1, para. 11). In this connexion, he states that the actual requirements will be considered in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted towards the end of the current session of the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee recommends that the estimates be closely scrutinized by the Secretary-General to ensure that staffing levels are not exceeded.

Conclusions

11. For the reasons stated in paragraphs 5, 7 and 8 above the Advisory Committee believes that the additional requirements related to the proposed Conference may be lower than the Secretary-General's estimates.

12. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution in document A/C.3/35/L.51/Rev.1 recommended by the Third Committee, an additional appropriation of \$400,000 would be required under section 21 (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. An appropriation of \$30,800 would also be required under section 31 (Staff assessment) to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1.