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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: ENVIRONMENT

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Administrative and financial implications of draft
resolution A/C.2/35/L.116

Nineteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement in document A/C.5/35/72 submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.116 which was adopted by the Second Committee at its 46th meeting, on 20 November 1980.
2. Pursuant to operative paragraph 5 of this draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to take the requisite steps to implement the recommendations of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the work of the United Nations system on interrelationships between resources, environment, people and development, as well as those put forward by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1980/49 of 23 July 1980. As he indicates in paragraph 2 of his statement, the Secretary-General is of the opinion that this would give rise to financial implications for the regular budget.
3. The recommendations of the UNEP Governing Council and of the Economic and Social Council are described in paragraphs 3 to 6 of the Secretary-General's statement.
4. In paragraph 7, the Secretary-General indicates that to carry out the request in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution "it would be the intention of the Director-General, in the first instance, to proceed during 1981 with the further elaboration of a programme of work ...".

5. As indicated in paragraph 8 of the statement, "pending the elaboration of such a work programme, the Secretary-General is not in a position to formulate definite recommendations regarding the resources required to enable the Director-General to carry out the responsibilities referred to in Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/49 and endorsed in the draft resolution before the General Assembly." The requirements put forward by the Secretary-General therefore relate exclusively to the tasks to be carried out during 1981. In this regard the Secretary-General states in paragraph 9 that

"Every effort would be made to draw to the extent possible, for this purpose, on resources available in the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and in other United Nations entities concerned, particularly UNEP and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs."

6. Nevertheless, the Secretary-General is of the opinion that 24 work-months of additional Professional staff services and 12 work-months of additional General Service staff services would be required (para. 10 of his statement). The Committee notes, however, that "all efforts would be made" to meet part of these requirements "by redeployment of savings and other uncommitted resources that can be released from the organizational entities concerned", on the understanding that should "this expectation be unfulfilled, the necessary resources would be requested in the context of the final performance report for the biennium 1980-1981". The Secretary-General estimates the net additional requirements for 1981 as follows:

	\$
Temporary assistance <u>a/</u>	69,900
Travel	8,000
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Total	<u>77,900</u>

a/ Calculated for indicative purposes at 12 work-months of services at the D-1 level and 6 work-months at the General Service level.

7. The Committee found no clear explanation in the Secretary-General's statement of why the envisaged additional resources would be required. The Committee understands that the Director-General's Office has 14 Professional and higher posts including 3 at the D-2 level and 4 at the D-1 level. Under the circumstances, and in the light of the fact that a definitive programme of work has not yet been established (see paras. 4 and 5 above), the Committee recommends that efforts be made to meet all staff requirements from within existing resources; if necessary an additional appropriation which should not exceed \$77,900 may be considered by the General Assembly in the context of the final performance report for 1980-1981.

8. The Committee notes paragraph 11 of the Secretary-General's statement regarding the proposal for the establishment of a voluntary fund. The Committee

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also notes paragraph 12 of the statement which discusses the proposed convening in 1982 of a "session of a special character, open to all States, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment". As indicated by the Secretary-General, at this point the costs for such a conference are tentative and, "as they would not need to be incurred until 1982, no request for the provision of such funds will be made to this session of the General Assembly".

9. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.116 recommended by the Second Committee, no action on additional appropriation for the biennium 1980-81 would need to be taken at the current session of the General Assembly.
