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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985

First-class travel

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 32/198, as amended by resolution 35/217, section X and resolution 37/237, section III, the Secretary-General submits herein his annual report on the implementation of the resolution, noting all exceptions made to allow first-class travel and the savings achieved through utilization of economy and other air fares. The present report provides information for the period from 1 July 1982 to 30 June 1983.

2. In paragraph 11 of its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on organization and methods for official travel (A/37/7/Add.15), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) recommended that, for those matters contained in the related report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) (A/37/357 and Corr.1) which could be pursued by the United Nations on its own, the Secretary-General should include a special section on the implementation of the JIU recommendations in his next report submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/198. Subsequently, on 21 December 1982, the General Assembly adopted resolution 37/241 on organization and methods for official travel which, in paragraph 9, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session on the implementation of the resolution dealing with the recommendations of JIU on the matter as well as with the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/37/357/Add.1). As a consequence, the special section of the present report recommended by the Advisory Committee in respect of the JIU recommendations will be part of the report which the Secretary-General will submit in accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 37/241.

3. The Secretary-General exercised his discretion in making exceptions to allow first-class travel in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 32/198 in the following cases:

(a) An eminent person invited to participate as a panelist at the press encounter arranged by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the eve of its Conference;

(b) Four guests of the Special Committee against Apartheid to attend the presentation ceremony of a gold medal to each of them for outstanding contribution to the international movement for sanctions against South Africa at a special plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 5 November 1982, in accordance with the programme for the International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions against South Africa;

(c) An ambassador, serving in the capacity of Chairman of the Inter-Agency Survey Mission to Lebanon established under Security Council resolution 511 (1982), to identify areas for reconstruction aid arising from the hostilities, and the consultant appointed Executive Secretary of the Mission, in order that ongoing consultations could take place en route;

(d) Four persons of ambassadorial rank who served as resource persons for the World Mass Media Leaders' Roundtables arranged by the Department of Public Information, travelling with senior Secretariat officials who were entitled to first-class travel;

(e) A senior United Nations official accompanying high-level government officials who were travelling by first class, in order to discuss official matters en route;

(f) Nine persons on medical grounds (four staff members, a consultant, three members of subsidiary organs and a government official), on the recommendation of the Medical Service;

(g) A United Nations official, because of the nature and difficulty of the mission;

(h) In the cases of an interregional adviser and five staff members, approval was given ex post facto for first-class travel when it was determined that no economy seat was available and it was not feasible to await a later flight;

(i) In the case of three government officials, first-class travel tickets were provided at a regional commission and ex post facto approval requested from Headquarters;

(j) In six cases, first-class travel entitlements for flights exceeding nine hours was maintained even though the journeys were interrupted by overnight stopovers for flight connection purposes;

(k) Five United Nations officials accompanying the Secretary-General for the purpose of holding discussions during the flights;

(l) An immediate aide of the Secretary-General accompanying him during his official travels for security purposes.

4. Details of the individual exceptions referred to above have been provided to the ACABQ.

5. The total savings accrued during the period from 1 July 1982 to 30 June 1983 as a result of the implementation of resolution 32/198 are estimated at \$372,623.
