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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION:
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Living conditions of the Palestinian people in
the occupied Palestinian territories

Administrative and financial implications of the draft
resolution contained in document A/C.2/38/L.11

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 39th meeting, held on 14 November 1983, the Second Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/38/L.11, as orally revised. The Committee had before it a statement of administrative and financial implications in document A/C.2/38/L.25.
2. By operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/38/L.11 as orally revised, the Secretary-General would be requested to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive report on the current and future impact of the Israeli settlements on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, including a comparison between living conditions of the latter and those of the residents of the Israeli settlements.
3. The preparation of the report would require a review of the past, present and future policies of the occupying Power for the establishment and expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, and an assessment of the impact of those policies and their implementation on the living conditions of the indigenous Palestinian people in those territories. This report, which would be comprehensive, would differ in some respects from previous reports submitted to the General Assembly on the living

conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories in that the focus would be on the settlement policies and practices in the occupied territories and their effect on the Palestinian people and communities in the territories, including a comparison between their living conditions and the living conditions of those living in the Israeli settlements.

4. It will be recalled that on previous occasions when a comprehensive report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories was requested (General Assembly resolutions 34/113, 36/73 and 37/222), it was deemed necessary to engage a team of three consultants to undertake the research and analysis needed for such a report because of the multidisciplinary nature of the inquiry. The report requested in draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.11 would also require a multidisciplinary approach and the services of a similar team representing the basic disciplines concerned with living conditions, namely physical and environmental planning, economic analysis and social development. The report would seek to assess the impact of Israeli settlement policies and practices in the occupied territories on such aspects of Palestinian living conditions as physical infrastructure, housing, community facilities, access to land and water, economic activities in terms of agriculture, industry and trade, local government, and the social environment affecting education, health, cultural development, freedom of movement and expression, and other conditions of living and working. As the need would arise for interviews and discussions with key community leaders and other concerned individuals both in the territories and in the neighbouring countries, proper communications in the Arabic language would have to be ensured. In addition, many publications in the Arabic language would have to be translated. It would be necessary, therefore, to engage interpreters and translators to the extent that the consultants were not sufficiently conversant with that language.

5. Based on past experience, it is proposed that a team of three experts comprising a physical planner, an economist and a sociologist should be engaged to prepare the report and that they should undertake a mission to the following areas and perform the following tasks:

- (a) The team would visit:
 - (i) Baghdad to consult with the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), which has been monitoring and gathering information on the situation in the occupied territories;
 - (ii) Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic to meet with government officials and to gather data and information from government agencies and ministries;
 - (iii) Jordan to meet with officials of the Ministry of Occupied Territories, the Office of the Crown Prince, the Ministry of Development and Reconstruction, the Royal Scientific Society and to contact other sources and individuals who could provide relevant information, including recent visitors to the occupied territories;
 - (iv) Geneva, Paris and Vienna to meet with officials and gather information from the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the Centre for Human Rights, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and

Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

- (v) The occupied Palestinian territories to conduct an on-the-spot survey and to interview both Palestinian community leaders and professionals as well as residents of the Israeli settlements;
 - (vi) Nairobi for briefing and debriefing by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements;
 - (vii) New York for consultations and gathering of available information from the United Nations Secretariat units concerned with Palestinian questions and meetings with the Permanent Missions of Egypt, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations and the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations.
- (b) The preparation and submission of the report.

6. During its visit to the occupied territories and the neighbouring Arab countries, the team would be assisted by one interpreter, and the services of translators would be used as required.

7. An estimate of the related costs is summarized below:

	<u>US dollars</u>
<u>Consultants</u>	
Nine work-months, including travel and subsistence while on mission	63 000
<u>General operating expenses</u>	
Rental of local office equipment, telephone and cable charges, local transportation and miscellaneous services	2 500
<u>Interpretation services</u>	
Fees	5 000
Travel and subsistence	5 500
<u>Translation services</u>	
100 pages from Arabic and 100 pages from Hebrew	<u>5 000</u>
Total	<u><u>81 000</u></u>

8. In summary, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/38/L.11 as orally amended, an additional appropriation of \$81,000 would be required under section 19 (UNCHS) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.