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RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
SUCCESSION OF STATES IN RESPECT OF TREATIES

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
recommended by the Sixth Committee (A/32/366, para. 7)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter BELYAEV (Byelorussian Soviet
Socialist Republic)

1. At its 57th meeting, on 6 December 1977, the Fifth Committee, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered a statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/32/40/Rev.1 and Corr.1) of the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee (A/32/366, para. 7).

2. Pursuant to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would approve the convening of a resumed session of the United Nations Conference on Succession of States in Respect of Treaties at Vienna for a period of three weeks, from 31 July to 18 August 1978, with a possible extension of up to one further week should this prove necessary in the view of the Conference.

3. In his statement, the Secretary-General estimated that if the Conference were held at Geneva it would cost \$659,500 for a three-week session or \$834,600 for a four-week session, the corresponding estimates if the Conference were held in New York would be \$814,300 and \$984,600. The statement indicated that, under the terms of General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976, the Government of Austria would defray the actual additional cost directly or indirectly involved, but the Secretary-General did not express an opinion on whether the costs at New York or Geneva should be used as the basis for calculating the additional costs to be defrayed.

4. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the report of that Committee (A/32/8/Add.15) and recalled that, pursuant to paragraph 5 of section I of General Assembly resolution 31/140, the actual additional costs are those additional to holding a session at the established headquarters of the body in question. For bodies serviced by the Office of Legal Affairs, the established headquarters is the United Nations Headquarters in New York. In the specific case of the United Nations Conference on Succession of States in Respect of Treaties, however, the General Assembly, at its thirty-first session, agreed that Geneva should be used as the base for calculating additional costs related to the 1977 session of the Conference. Since the proposed 1978 session would be a resumed session and not a separate conference, the Advisory Committee had concluded that the arrangements approved for 1977, namely, that Geneva be used as the basis for calculating the costs, should apply also to the resumed session in 1978. Accordingly, the Committee's recommendations relate to the Secretary-General's assumptions as to the costs of holding the session at Geneva.

5. On the basis of full cost requirements for a three-week session, the Advisory Committee recommended reductions of \$73,300 in conference servicing costs (\$25,400 in respect to staff and \$47,900 in respect of post-session documentation) and \$1,800 in other requirements (travel and subsistence of substantive staff). The full cost of conference servicing requirements for a three-week session thus became \$551,000 and that of other requirements became \$33,400. The Committee recommended that the figure \$551,000 be used as the starting point for purposes of the consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements. The Committee believed that requirements for one additional week were of a contingent nature and should not be included in the consolidated statement.

6. Comments made in the course of the discussion of this question in the Committee are reflected in the summary record of the meeting (A/C.5/32/SR.57).

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

7. The Fifth Committee decided, by 79 votes to 6, to accept the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as contained in its report (A/32/8/Add.15) and to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee (A/32/366, para. 7), an additional amount of \$33,400 would be required under section 20 of the programme budget for 1978-1979 and that conference servicing requirements in an amount which should not exceed \$551,000 would arise under section 23, it being understood that the latter requirements would be included in a consolidated statement to be prepared towards the close of the current session of the General Assembly.
