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SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 75

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI  
PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION  
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution  
contained in document A/SPC/42/L.26

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

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/42/L.26, the Special Committee would be requested, pending early termination of Israeli occupation, to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross in order to ensure the safeguarding of the welfare and human rights of the population of the occupied territories and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arises thereafter.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 18, the Special Committee would also be requested to continue to investigate the treatment of civilians in detention in the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

3. Under the terms of operative paragraph 20, the Secretary-General would be requested:

(a) To provide all necessary facilities to the Special Committee, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, so that it may investigate the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;

(b) To continue to make available additional staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;

(c) To ensure the widest circulation of reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee that are no longer available;

(d) To report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the tasks entrusted to him in the present resolution.

B. Relationship of proposed requests to the proposed programme of work

4. The activities referred to above would fall under chapter 6, programme: Centre for Human Rights, subprogramme 1, Implementation of international standards, instruments and procedures, the objectives and strategy of which are described in paragraphs 6.20 to 6.23 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. 1/

5. The following programme element of section 23, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for 1988-1989 2/ would be directly affected by the activities referred to in the draft resolution:

Subprogramme 1. Implementation of international standards, instruments and procedures

Programme element:

1.3. Servicing special procedures including assistance to ad hoc investigatory or fact-finding bodies

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, including organization of three series of meetings per year, hearings, field visits, consultations, maintenance of records and drafting of report to responsible organ (1988 and 1989).

C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

6. In order to respond to the requests contained in the draft resolution, the activities of the Centre for Human Rights under subprogramme 1, programme element 1.3, output (i), in accordance with the pattern of work undertaken by the Special Committee annually since 1970, would include the following:

(a) The Special Committee would meet at Geneva in January/February 1988 for a period of approximately five working days, to continue its study and analysis of the evidence and of documentary and other material that it has received. At that meeting, the Special Committee would review developments in the occupied

territories, receive further allegations and evidence of violations of human rights, if any, and initiate studies of relevant new developments which may have taken place;

(b) In May/June 1988, the Special Committee would meet at Geneva for a period of approximately 10 working days to continue its study and analysis of further evidence, receive additional allegations and evidence of violations of human rights, if any, and begin the preparation of its draft report;

(c) In September 1988, the Special Committee would meet at Geneva for a period of approximately 10 working days to continue its study and analysis of further evidence and to adopt its report;

(d) Interpretation services would be required from and into English and French for the meetings held at Geneva; documents prepared for the Special Committee's use will be drafted in English and translated into French. Should Arabic-speaking witnesses be heard, interpretation from Arabic would also be required;

(e) In November/December 1988, the Special Committee would meet in New York for a period of five working days to examine additional information received and to adopt a report supplementary to its main report. The attention of the Special Political Committee is drawn to the fact that under the terms of paragraph 7 of section I of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly should be permitted to meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized to do so by the Assembly. Consequently, the proposed meeting in New York in November/December 1988 cannot take place unless specifically authorized by the Assembly;

(f) The Special Committee would require up-to-date information on current developments in the Middle East region and, for this purpose, newspapers issued in the region would have to be reviewed on a day-to-day basis for information relevant to the work of the Special Committee. Translation from Arabic and Hebrew into English and French of pertinent articles appearing in Arabic and Hebrew publications would be required and, in addition, the Special Committee would hear testimony of witnesses;

(g) The Special Committee would undertake a field mission to Europe and the Middle East. Prior to proceeding on the mission, it is anticipated that the Special Committee would review developments in the occupied territories and decide whether it considers such a mission necessary. Should the Special Committee so decide, the mission would probably take place during the late spring or early summer of 1988, for a period of not more than 21 days. Alternatively, the Special Committee may invite witnesses to travel to Geneva to provide the Committee with information relevant to its mandate;

(h) During the field mission, the Special Committee would hear testimony and receive written statements from witnesses. It would be necessary for the Committee to insert paid notices in newspapers for the purpose of informing potential witnesses of its hearings and some witnesses might require financial assistance to make the journey to the place of meeting of the Committee in order to testify;

(i) During the field mission, interpretation from and into English, French, Arabic and Hebrew would be required. No summary record would be prepared but the oral testimony of witnesses would be recorded on tape and transcribed at Geneva. Written testimony would be translated into English and French from Arabic or Hebrew. The records of oral and written testimony of witnesses are expected to amount to approximately 1,000 pages in English and would be translated into French.

7. By operative subparagraph 20 (b) of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General is requested to continue to make available additional staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks. For this purpose the Secretary-General proposes to provide temporary assistance funds for 12 months for one P-2 and two General Service staff members, one of whom would assist the Special Committee in indexing and preparing monthly summaries of transcripts of evidence which it receives continuously. Furthermore, in order to keep the Special Committee furnished with up-to-date information on current developments in the Middle East region, newspapers issued in the region would be reviewed daily for information relating to its work, and translation from Arabic and Hebrew into English and French of the appropriate articles appearing in Arabic and Hebrew publications would be required. In addition, temporary assistance funds are requested for 12 months for one staff member at the P-3 level who would translate newspaper articles, reports, written testimony and transcripts, military orders and proclamations from Arabic and Hebrew into English and/or French. He or she would also prepare documentation for the meetings of the Special Committee.

8. The request to the Secretary-General, in operative subparagraph 20 (c) of the draft resolution, to ensure the widest circulation of the report of the Special Committee by all means available through the Department of Public Information would continue to be complied with within available resources.

D. Modifications required in the proposed programme of work for 1988-1989

9. No modifications are required in the proposed programme of work for 1988-1989 since the activity appears under programme element 1.3.

E. Additional requirements at full-cost

10. The estimated cost of the above programme of work is itemized as follows:

	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
I. <u>Meeting at Geneva, January/February 1988</u> <u>(5 working days)</u>		
Travel and subsistence of three members:		
Travel	4 100	
Subsistence	<u>2 700</u>	6 800
II. <u>Meeting at Geneva, May/June 1988</u> <u>(10 working days)</u>		
Travel and subsistence of three members:		
Travel	4 100	
Subsistence	<u>5 800</u>	9 900
III. <u>Field mission to Europe and the Middle East</u> <u>in late spring or early summer 1988</u> <u>(21 days)</u>		
(a) Travel and subsistence of three members:		
(i) Travel	5 800	
(ii) Subsistence	<u>6 800</u>	12 600
(b) Travel and subsistence of six substantive and administrative staff members (one principal secretary, one assistant secretary, one administrative and finance officer, one information officer, two secretaries):		
(i) Travel	4 700	
(ii) Subsistence	<u>9 200</u>	13 900
(c) General operating expenses:		
(i) Rental of conference room and office space		
(ii) Local transportation		
(iii) Communications		
Administrative and press cables, telephones, etc.		

	\$	\$
(iv) Air freight (sound equipment, tapes, etc.)		
(v) Miscellaneous and unforeseen expenses (travel and subsistence of witnesses, costs for notices in newspapers etc.)	13 400	13 400
IV. <u>Meeting at Geneva, September 1988</u> <u>(10 working days)</u>		
Travel and subsistence of three members:		
Travel	4 100	
Subsistence	<u>5 800</u>	9 900
V. <u>Meeting in New York, November/December 1988</u> <u>(5 working days)</u>		
(a) Travel and subsistence of three members:		
(i) Travel	4 100	
(ii) Subsistence	<u>2 400</u>	6 500
(b) Travel and subsistence of two staff members (Secretary of the Committee and one General Service secretary):		
(i) Travel	2 100	
(ii) Subsistence	<u>1 700</u>	3 800
VI. <u>Supplementary staff and other expenditures</u>		
(i) Temporary assistance for indexing and summarizing of transcripts of evidence (P-2, salary and common staff costs, 12 work-months)	57 700	
(ii) Secretarial assistance to service Special Committee (two General Service, salaries and common staff costs, 12 work-months)	91 800	
(iii) Overtime for secretarial staff	2 000	

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	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
(iv) Temporary assistance for translation of newspaper articles, reports, written testimony and transcripts from Arabic and Hebrew into English and/or French, and for translation of military orders and proclamations from Arabic and Hebrew into English and/or French and preparation of documentation for Special Committee meetings (one P-3 salary and common staff costs, 12 work-months)	71 000	
(v) General operating expenses (subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals, purchase of publications, special cartographic services, equipment, etc.)	<u>20 000</u>	<u>242 500</u>
Total:		<u><u>319 300</u></u>

11. The mandate of the Special Committee has been renewed annually for a period of more than five years, and so the Secretary-General has requested resources for the Committee's activities in the biennium 1988-1989 in his proposed programme budget for that biennium. Consequently, should the General Assembly decide to adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/42/L.26, no additional appropriation would be required.

12. The conference-servicing costs which are likely to arise from the four meetings and one field mission of the Special Committee in 1988 are estimated at \$471,600, as detailed below:

	<u>\$</u>
A. <u>Meeting at Geneva, January/February 1988</u>	
(i) Pre-session documentation (65 pages, 5 documents, languages: E,F)	11 000
(ii) Meeting-servicing (10 meetings): Interpretation	14 800
(iii) In-session documentation (15 pages, 2 documents, languages: E,F)	2 200
(iv) Post-session documentation (50 pages, 4 documents, languages: E,F)	7 500

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(v) Transcript of testimony	8 700
(vi) Office of General Services requirements	<u>1 400</u>
Subtotal:	<u>45 600</u>
<b>B. <u>Meeting at Geneva, May/June 1988</u></b>	
(i) Pre-session documentation (65 pages, 5 documents, languages: E,F)	11 000
(ii) Meeting-servicing (20 meetings): Interpretation	33 300
(iii) In-session documentation (15 pages, 2 documents, languages: E,F)	2 200
(iv) Post-session documentation (50 pages, 4 documents, languages: E,F)	7 500
(v) Transcript of testimony	28 100
(vi) Office of General Services requirements	<u>2 900</u>
Subtotal:	<u>85 000</u>
<b>C. <u>Field mission, spring/summer 1988</u></b>	
(i) Meeting-servicing on mission:	
Interpretation/verbatim reporter, including travel and per diem	102 100
In-session documentation	64 600
Office of General Services requirements	6 700
(ii) Transcript of testimony	<u>26 000</u>
Subtotal:	<u>199 400</u>
<b>D. <u>Meeting at Geneva, September 1988</u></b>	
(i) Pre-session documentation (65 pages, 5 documents, languages: E,F)	11 000
(ii) Meeting-servicing (20 meetings): Interpretation	33 300

	<u>\$</u>
(iii) In-session documentation (20 pages, 2 documents, languages: E,F)	3 300
(iv) Post-session documentation (200 pages, 4 documents, languages: E,F)	28 300
(v) Transcript of testimony	28 100
(vi) Office of General Services requirements	<u>2 900</u>
Subtotal:	<u>106 900</u>

**E. Meeting in New York, November/December 1988**

(i) Pre-session documentation (prep. at Geneva) (25 pages, 1 document, languages: E,F)	4 500
(ii) Meeting-servicing (10 meetings): Interpretation	14 200
(iii) In-session documentation (20 pages, 2 documents, languages: E,F)	5 700
(iv) Post-session documentation (prep. at Geneva) (25 pages, 2 documents, languages: E,F)	4 800
(v) Office of General Services requirements	<u>5 500</u>
Subtotal:	<u>34 700</u>

13. The above cost estimates are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements could be met from within the permanent capacity of the Department of Conference Services and would require additional resources for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the permanent capacity of the Department needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can only be determined in the light of the calendar of conferences to be approved by the General Assembly. However, as indicated in paragraph 29.6 of the proposed programme budget, 3/ the 1988-1989 requirements under temporary assistance for meetings have been estimated on the basis of a five-year average of appropriations and actual expenditure for the period 1982-1986, and included in the Secretary-General's initial estimates. In other words, provision has been made in the proposed programme budget not only for meetings known at the time of the budget preparation but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the next biennium is consistent with the pattern experienced over the past five years. On that basis it is estimated that no additional cost would be incurred under section 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/42/L.26.

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Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6 and Corr.1).

2/ A/42/6 (Sect. 23).

3/ A/42/6 (Sect. 29).

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