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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

- (ix) Commission resolution 149(XIII) on the
financial status of the Commission

In its resolution 149(XIII) "Financial status of the Commission" the Commission

"1. Expresses its deep concern at any financial measures aimed at reducing the Commission's mandated activities for the biennium 1986-1987 and at any measures aimed at limiting the ability of the Commission to supplement the human resources necessary to carry out those activities;

"2. Further expresses its particular concern at the application of the financial measures adopted by the United Nations Secretariat to all of its bodies indiscriminately, without regard for the special and unique situation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, particularly the shortage of the human resources that are a basic necessity for it to carry out its mandated programmes and activities, especially since the Commission has already undertaken, in adopting its budget, to cancel thirty subprogrammes because of the lack of sufficient financial and human resources.

"3. Reaffirms its strong desire that the Commission should receive support, in all possible ways and by all possible means, in the task of pursuing its work and continuing to assume and to consolidate its constructive role;

"4. Invites the Economic and Social Council to call upon the General Assembly to strengthen and expand the positive and constructive role assumed by the Commission in the economic and social development of the region so as to make a more far-reaching contribution to promoting regional and national development plans and programmes."

In its resolution 1986/59, "Financial status of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia", adopted on 22 July 1986, the Economic and Social Council took note of ESCWA resolution 149 (XIII) and the concerns raised in it and called upon the General Assembly to strengthen the role of the Commission along the lines of resolution 149(XIII).

However, the seriousness of the financial crisis, which required stringent and immediate economies to meet the Organization's cash flow problems within the calendar year 1986, does not appear to have allowed for any discrimination in the imposition of financial and human resources controls among units of the Organization. The recruitment freeze and cuts in budget allotments have applied, mutatis mutandis, equally to all offices and, despite reassurances to the contrary, the same appears to be the case for the first half of 1987. (Reference is also made to document E/ESCWA/C.1/14/5/Add.4 submitted under agenda item 6(b) (iv) wherein details of the vacancy management plan are given.)

The Commission has, however, received prompt and generous support in all measures it proposed, for security reasons, to effect the relocation of its International General Service staff from the Al-Khairat compound, where such staff have resided since the move of the Commission to its Baghdad headquarters in 1982, to individual residences.