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QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Administrative and financial implications of draft
resolutions A/32/L.4 to A/32/L.11

Fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered document A/C.5/32/30 and Corr.1 in which the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, submits a statement of administrative and financial implications in 1978 of several draft resolutions on the question of Namibia, in a total amount of \$1,138,000 net of staff assessment. In his report, the Secretary-General relates these estimates more specifically to draft resolutions A/32/L.5, A/32/L.6, A/32/L.9 and A/32/L.10. In paragraphs 2, 13 and 14 he states that the administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions A/32/L.4, A/32/L.7 and A/32/L.8 are covered by those submitted for the other draft resolutions, and more particularly draft resolution A/32/L.9. As regards draft resolution A/32/L.11, the Secretary-General states in paragraph 28 that no specific administrative and financial implications can be determined at this time.

2. The financial implications, as submitted by the Secretary-General in his report, may be summarized as follows:

Draft resolution	Section 3		Section 21	Section 22	Section 25	Income section 1	Total
	Sub-section B	Sub-section C					
A/32/L.5	-	500,000	-	-	-	-	500,000
A/32/L.6	-	34,500	175,300	-	-	-	209,800
A/32/L.9	73,600	239,800	-	8,400	18,400	(18,400)	321,800
A/32/L.10	-	106,400	-	-	-	-	106,400
	73,600	880,700	175,300	8,400	18,400	(18,400)	1,138,000

Draft resolution A/32/L.5: United Nations Fund for Namibia

3. Operative paragraph 4 of this draft resolution would have the General Assembly decide to allocate to the United Nations Fund for Namibia, as a temporary measure, the sum of \$US 500,000 from the regular budget of the United Nations for 1978.

4. The Advisory Committee notes that contributions to the Fund from the United Nations regular budget during the period 1974-1977 amounted to a total of \$800,000.

5. The amount of \$500,000 is intended to be a lump-sum contribution to the Fund in 1978. The Fifth Committee may wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/32/L.5, there would be need for an additional appropriation of \$500,000 under section 3C of the programme budget for 1978-1979.

Draft resolution A/32/L.6: Dissemination of information on Namibia

6. The administrative and financial implications of this draft resolution are estimated by the Secretary-General at \$209,800 in 1978, consisting of \$175,300 under section 21 (Office of Public Information) and \$34,500 under section 3C (United Nations Council for Namibia).

7. The amount of \$34,500 under section 3C comprises \$10,000 to continue the feasibility studies on the question of a United Nations radio transmitter for Namibia; \$21,000 for the French and Spanish editions of four issues of Namibia Bulletin; and \$3,500 for the issuance of a French-language edition of the map of Namibia (2,000 copies), and of a new English-language edition of the map in a larger format (6,000 copies). The Advisory Committee has no objection to these estimates.

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8. The estimated cost of the activities to be undertaken by the Office of Public Information consists of the following:

Production of German, Italian, Portuguese and Swedish-language versions of the film on Namibia produced in 1977	\$22,300
Production of a new film on Namibia in 1978	\$85,000
Engagement of writers and researchers to assist in the production of six half hour radio programmes in English, French and Spanish	\$5,000
Placement of advertisements in newspapers and magazines	\$30,000
Production of promotional spot announcements in English, French, German and Spanish	\$8,000
Programme of publications on military, political, economic and social conditions in Namibia	\$25,000
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	\$175,300
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9. In table 21.9 of his proposed programme budget for 1978-1979, the Secretary-General indicates that the appropriations for the biennium 1976-1977 include \$99,400 for the Office of Public Information for non-recurrent items related to Namibia. ^{1/} The question of Namibia is also covered by the Office of Public Information as part of its regular ongoing programme in 1976-1977, and will continue to be so covered in 1978-1979. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that it should be possible for the Office of Public Information to meet from within its regular resources the cost of \$5,000 related to the proposed production of the six radio programmes.

10. In paragraph 7 (c) of his statement, the Secretary-General indicates that the estimated cost of producing promotional spot announcements comprises \$5,000 for printing and \$3,000 for promotional travel. Bearing in mind that the "television systems of major Western countries" are represented by correspondents in New York, and that the Office of Public Information has information centres in the countries in question, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that special travel is warranted. Accordingly, it recommends that the request for \$3,000 for travel be absorbed.

11. The Advisory Committee notes that the placement of advertisements, which is not specifically listed in the recommendations addressed by the Council for Namibia

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/32/6), vol. II.

to the General Assembly, 2/ is an expensive means of disseminating information. The Committee recommends that \$20,000 be earmarked for the placement of advertisements.

12. The Committee has been informed that the estimate of \$25,000 for the programme of publications is intended almost entirely for external printing. The Advisory Committee accepts this estimate.

13. In the light of the recommendations in paragraphs 9-11 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/32/L.6, an additional appropriation of \$191,800 would be required under the programme budget for 1978-1979, consisting of \$34,500 under section 3C and \$157,300 under section 21.

Draft resolution A/32/L.9: Programme of work of the United Nations Council for Namibia

14. The administrative and financial implications, net of staff assessment, of this draft resolution are estimated by the Secretary-General at \$73,600 under section 3B, \$475,300 under section 3C, and \$8,400 under section 22, i.e., a total of \$557,300. In paragraph 24 of his report, the Secretary-General recalls that his initial programme budget proposals for the biennium 1978-1979 include \$530,100 under section 3C for the United Nations Council for Namibia, including the South West Africa People's Organization office. 3/ The Secretary-General indicates that \$235,500 of that amount relates to the programme of work of the Council in 1978; hence, the additional requirements attributable to draft resolution A/32/L.9 are estimated by him at \$321,800.

15. The amount of \$73,600 being sought under section 3B covers the cost of two posts (one P-4 and one P-3), on a temporary assistance basis, which the Secretary-General proposes to add to the Secretariat Services Division of the Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization which provides secretariat services to the Council for Namibia. In paragraph 23, the Secretary-General adduces statistics to show the increase in workload since 1975 attributable to the activities of the United Nations Council for Namibia.

16. The Advisory Committee does not question the need for the Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization to provide an increased volume of servicing to the Council. But while this type of servicing has been increasing, the other responsibilities of the Department, including those of the Secretariat Services Division, have decreased as a result of the accession to independence of several hitherto dependent territories, notably those previously under Portuguese administration. Thus, there is room for the redeployment of resources within the Department. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee recalls its observations in paragraph 3.8 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 24 (A/32/24), vol. I, paras. 270 (54) to (64).

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/32/6), vol. I, table 3.25 and para. 3.18.

1978-1979. ^{4/} Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the P-3 post requested in paragraph 23 be provided through redeployment, just as the Secretary-General proposes to do in the case of one General Service post at the principal level. On that basis the additional requirements under section 3B would amount to \$40,300 for temporary assistance at the P-4 level, i.e. \$33,300 less than the amount requested by the Secretary-General. The consequential reductions under sections 22 and 25 would amount to \$4,200 and \$7,500 respectively.

17. The estimate of \$475,300 under section 3C consists of the following amounts:

Missions of the United Nations Council for Namibia in 1978, pursuant to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution (A/C.5/32/30, para. 16)	\$149,300
Missions in 1978, pursuant to operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution (A/C.5/32/30, para. 18)	\$111,300
Travel in 1978 of representatives of SWAPO and petitioners to Headquarters (A/C.5/32/30, para. 19)	\$47,200
Expenses in 1978 of the SWAPO office in New York (A/C.5/32/30, para. 20)	\$167,500
	<u>\$475,300</u>

18. In response to inquiries, the Advisory Committee was informed that the estimated cost of missions, for which a total of \$260,600 is being requested, is based on a highly tentative schedule, and that the total is approximately two thirds larger than the 1976-1977 appropriation, adjusted for inflation. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that an amount of \$240,000 be approved at this stage.

19. As regards the travel costs of representatives of SWAPO and other Namibians, the Committee notes that they are included under all the four items listed in paragraph 17 above. Excluding the travel of SWAPO representatives accompanying members of the Council on the missions listed in paragraphs 16 and 18 of document A/C.5/32/30, which are not separately identified, these travel costs include:

- (a) \$47,200 for the travel of approximately 20 representatives of SWAPO and petitioners to New York, for one week each (para. 19);
- (b) \$48,000 for the travel of 12 SWAPO representatives, mainly petitioners, from Africa to New York, for one month each, and travel of the New York-based SWAPO representative and his deputy, other than travel in conjunction with missions of the Council (para. 20).

^{4/} Ibid., Supplement No. 8 (A/32/8).

There is thus no clear delineation between the travel the estimate for which is given in paragraph 19 of document A/C.5/32/30, and that in paragraph 20. The Advisory Committee recommends, accordingly, that an amount of \$75,000 for these two kinds of travel be approved.

20. As for the other expenses of the SWAPO office enumerated in paragraph 20, the Advisory Committee was informed that the estimate for telephone (\$12,000) is five times the 1977 figure, the estimate for stationery is 2.5 times the 1977 figure, and the estimate for utilities is nearly double that for 1977; substantial increases are also forecast under other items of expenditure. While the Advisory Committee appreciates that the increased activity of the SWAPO office will require additional expenditure on general service, it trusts that the resources requested will be managed with due regard to economy.

21. For the reasons given in paragraphs 16, 18 and 19 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/32/L.9, an additional amount of \$243,500 net would have to be appropriated under the proposed programme budget for 1978-1979, comprising \$40,300 under section 3B, \$199,000 under section 3C and \$4,200 under section 22. The related additional requirement under section 25 would be \$10,900 to be offset by increased revenue in the same amount under Income section 1.

Draft resolution A/32/L.10: Intensification and co-ordination of United Nations action in support of Namibia

22. The Secretary-General indicates the administrative and financial implications of this draft resolution in 1978 as being \$106,400 under the estimate for the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia in section 3C of the proposed programme budget for 1978-1979. The estimate comprises \$97,000 for legal expenses related to the continued implementation of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia, pursuant to operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, and \$9,400 in additional travel and subsistence for witnesses on the exploitation and purchase of Namibian uranium, pursuant to operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution.

23. In connexion with the estimate for legal expenses, the Advisory Committee recalls that in July 1975 it concurred in the Secretary-General's request to enter into commitments, initially under the terms of General Assembly resolution 3196 (XXVIII) on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1974-1975, in the amount of \$66,600 mainly to enable the Commissioner to concentrate in 1975 on clearly identifiable opportunities to test the applicability of the Decree. The Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee on that occasion that a considerable amount of specialized research in the field of shipping would be required, standard briefs would have to be prepared, and international and local lawyers would have to be engaged. The Advisory Committee notes also that, in table 3.29 of his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, the Secretary-General indicates that the 1976-1977 appropriations include \$80,000 for consultants for the Decree on Natural Resources. ^{5/} The Advisory Committee assumes

^{5/} Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/32/6).

that the request in paragraph 25 of document A/C.5/32/30 relates to the continuation of the work initiated in 1975. The estimate of \$97,000 is nearly 2.5 times the annual appropriation in the current biennium. Mindful of developments in recent years, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that an amount of \$60,000 - which is 50 per cent higher than the current annual appropriation - should suffice in 1978, particularly inasmuch as the Secretary-General will review next year the level of resources needed in 1979.

24. The Advisory Committee accepts the Secretary-General's estimate in paragraph 26 of document A/C.5/32/30.

25. For the reason given in paragraph 23 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/32/L.10, an additional appropriation of \$69,400 would be required under section 3C of the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979.

Draft resolution A/32/L.11: Special session of the General Assembly on the question of Namibia

26. The operative paragraph of this draft resolution would have the General Assembly decide, inter alia, "to hold a special session before the thirty-third session on a date to be determined by the Secretary-General in consultation with the United Nations Council for Namibia".

27. In paragraph 28 of document A/C.5/32/30 the Secretary-General states that in the absence of more precise information as to the timing and organizational aspects of the proposed special session - including factors such as duration, number of committees and preparatory work - no specific administrative and financial implications can be determined.

28. Considering the very heavy schedule of meetings in the first eight months of 1978, which includes the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the holding of a special session on Namibia would require considerable advance planning. Hence, the date will have to be determined sufficiently in advance to make such planning possible. Presumably this determination will have to be made before the end of the thirty-second session.

29. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee the information contained in document A/C.5/32/30 does not satisfy the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee recommends therefore that final action on draft resolution A/32/L.11 should be deferred until the consultations referred to in the operative paragraph of the draft resolution have taken place and the Secretary-General has submitted a statement of administrative and financial implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure.
