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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Budget and programme performance of the United Nations  
for the biennium 1978-1979

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Section 21. Public information

## PART VIII

## COMMON SERVICES

## SECTION 21. PUBLIC INFORMATION

Table 21-1

(In thousands of United States dollars)

A. Regular budget						
Revised appropriation 1978-1979	Estimated additional requirements					Total revised estimate
	Inflation	Rates of exchange	Decisions of policy-making organs	Other changes	Total	
38 960.2	382.7	51.8	5.0	728.9	1 168.4	40 128.6

B. Extrabudgetary resources (substantive and administrative support)		
Previously estimated expenditures 1978-1979	Source of funds	Revised estimate
126.2	Trust Fund for Economic and Social Information: Salaries and common staff costs	126.6
458.0	Contributions by host Governments: Salaries, common staff costs and general operating expenses	720.4
-	Trust Fund for Interest on Japanese Contribution to United Nations Special Account: Salaries, common staff costs and general operating expenses	70.5
584.2	Total, B	917.5

39 544.4	Total, A and B	41 046.1
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C. Extrabudgetary resources (operational projects)		
Previously estimated expenditures 1978-1979	Source of funds	Revised estimate
-	Trust Fund for Special Public Information Activities	1 000.0
200.0	Contributions towards the production costs of film and television series jointly sponsored with outside institutions	200.0
773.8	Trust Fund for Economic and Social Information	534.2
2 000.0	Development Forum	2 825.5
-	Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women	107.7
-	Trust Fund for Preparatory Activities for HABITAT	28.0
-	Trust Fund for Public Information on UNCTAD V	52.4
2 973.8	Total, C	4 747.8

42 518.2	Total, A, B and C	45 793.9
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Table 21-2

Regular budget: distribution of revised estimates by programme  
(In thousands of United States dollars)

Public information Programmes	Revised appropria- tions 1978-1979	Estimated additional requirements						Total 1978-1979 revised estimates
		Inflation	Rates of exchange	Decisions of policy- making organs	Redeploy- ment	Other changes	Total	
A. Office of Public Information, Headquarters	23 031.9	277.3	1.4	5.0	173.4	1 143.9	1 601.0	24 632.9
B. Information Service, Geneva	3 278.7	0.2	50.4	-	131.4	154.5	336.5	3 615.2
C. Information centres	12 649.6	105.2	-	-	(304.8)	(569.5)	(769.1)	11 880.5
Total	38 960.2	382.7	51.8	5.0	-	728.9	1 168.4	40 128.6

Table 21-3

Regular budget: distribution of estimated additional requirements  
by programme and by main object of expenditure  
(In thousands of United States dollars)

Public information Programmes	Salaries and common staff costs	Travel	Printing	Other contractual services	General operating expenses	Supplies, materials, furniture and equipment	Other	Total
A. Office of Public Information, Headquarters	215.8	(27.8)	211.3	466.5	726.2	9.0	-	1 601.0
B. Information Service, Geneva	336.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	336.5
C. Information centres	(897.5)	-	-	1.7	126.7	-	-	(769.1)
Total	(345.2)	(27.8)	211.3	468.2	852.9	9.0	-	1 168.4

Table 21-4

Regular budget: distribution of revised estimates by programme  
(In thousands of United States dollars)

A. Office of Public Information, Headquarters	Revised appropriations 1978-1979	Estimated additional requirements					Total 1978-1979 revised estimates
		Inflation	Rates of exchange	Decisions of policy-making organs	Redeployment	Other changes	
Programmes							
1. Executive direction and management (including Office of the Thematic Task Force Co-ordinator)	713.1	2.0	-	5.0	94.7	(40.9)	773.9
2. Programmes of activity:							
(a) Radio and Visual Services Division	12 382.0	119.5	-	-	-	321.2	12 822.7
(b) Press and Publications Division	4 923.2	17.6	-	-	-	148.2	5 089.0
(c) External Relations Division	2 145.8	11.4	-	-	78.7	(1.7)	2 234.2
(d) Centre for Economic and Social Information	1 096.2	4.1	1.4	-	-	72.5	1 174.2
3. Programme support: departmental administration	1 611.6	122.7	-	-	-	644.6	2 378.9
4. World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women (information activity)	160.0	-	-	-	-	-	160.0
Total	23 031.9	277.3	1.4	5.0	173.4	1 143.9	24 632.9

Table 21-5

Regular budget: distribution of estimated additional requirements  
by programme and by main object of expenditure  
(In thousands of United States dollars)

A. Office of Public Information, Headquarters Programmes	Salaries and common staff costs	Travel	Printing	Other contractual services	General operating expenses	Supplies, materials, furniture and equipment	Other	Total
1. Executive direction and management (including Office of the Thematic Task Force Co-ordinator)	53.8	-	-	5.0	2.0	-	-	60.8
2. Programmes of activity:								
(a) Radio and Visual Services Division	(14.5)	(33.8)	(15.0)	451.0	38.0	15.0	-	440.7
(b) Press and Publications Division	(71.0)	-	226.3	10.5	-	-	-	165.8
(c) External Relations Division	88.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	88.4
(d) Centre for Economic and Social Information	78.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	78.0
3. Programme support: departmental administration	81.1	-	-	-	686.2	-	-	767.3
4. World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women (information activity)	-	6.0	-	-	-	(6.0)	-	-
Total	215.8	(27.8)	211.3	466.5	726.2	9.0	-	1 601.0

## SECTION 21. PUBLIC INFORMATION

### A. Office of Public Information, Headquarters

#### 1. Executive direction and management

#### I. Programme developments

21.1 During the biennium, the General Assembly, by its resolution 33/115, established the Committee to Review Public Information Policies and Activities. The work of this Committee and its ad hoc Working Group had an impact on the workload and resources of this programme. In addition, the authorized staffing of the Unit was modified by the borrowing of a D-1 post from the information centres programme for two years.

#### II. Revised budget estimates (Increase: \$60,800)

21.2 Total additional requirements in the amount of \$68,900 are anticipated under established posts (\$18,200) and common staff costs (\$43,700) representing the net effect of the temporary redeployment of the post referred to in the preceding paragraph and periodic vacancies which arose during the course of the biennium, under contractual translation (\$5,000) for documentation relating to the Committee to Review Public Information Policies and Activities and its ad hoc Working Group, and under hospitality (\$2,000). These increased needs were offset by reduced requirements under general temporary assistance (\$8,100).

#### 2 (a) Radio and Visual Services Division

#### I. Programme developments

21.3 A number of additional conferences and meetings were serviced by the Division. As a result other projects and activities had to be scaled down. The increase in conference and meeting services resulted in higher expenditures, especially in respect of telecommunication engineering costs.

#### II. Revised budget estimates (Increase: \$440,700)

21.4 Additional estimated requirements totalling \$570,400 in respect of established posts (\$64,400) due to higher than standard staff salaries, under telecommunication engineering services (\$453,000), under maintenance of public information equipment (\$28,000), under public information supplies (\$15,000) and under freight costs (\$10,000) have been reduced by total estimated savings of \$129,700 in respect of common staff costs (\$78,900) due to lower than average recorded entitlements, operational travel on film assignment (\$33,800) resulting from the postponement of lower priority projects, and reduced photo-visual material requirements (\$17,000).

21.5 The net additional requirements of \$440,700 incorporated increases resulting from coverage of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session Devoted to Disarmament, the ninth special session on Namibia, the resumed

thirty-third session of the General Assembly, Security Council meetings and the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II increased rates provided for in the current telecommunication engineering union contract of 3 per cent per year above the 5 per cent provided for in the 1978-1979 budget appropriations, increased overtime costs for engineers in connexion with revenue-producing activities and the unutilized appropriation for the film on the horrors of war which could not be produced during the current biennium.

## 2 (b) Press and Publications Division

### I. Programme developments

21.6 The increased number of meetings to be covered, both at Headquarters and overseas, has posed serious difficulties for the Division, especially for the Press Section, and redeployment of staff has worked only with uneven results. Consequently, the production of in-depth information material was drastically curtailed, and a system of selective coverage was introduced which required the production of only an advance release and a summary at the end of meetings.

### II. Revised budget estimates (Increase: \$165,800)

21.7 Total additional requirements of \$236,800 are anticipated under external printing (\$226,300), involving the United Nations Yearbook, essential publications required for United Nations Day, special publications requested by the Secretary-General, such as Image and Reality, and a booklet on the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, and under news agency services (\$10,500) as a result of increased rates. These increased needs are offset by anticipated savings of \$71,000 under general temporary assistance (\$31,000) arising from a delay in producing the yearbook on Namibia, and under common staff costs (\$40,000).

## 2 (c) External Relations Division

### I. Programme developments

21.8 In 1979, the first regional conference of NGOs to be held since 1975 was convened in Geneva as part of a concerted effort to strengthen contact and collaboration with national non-governmental organizations. The authorized staffing of the Division was strengthened by the borrowing of a P-4 post for two years from the information centres programme.

### II. Revised budget estimates (Increase: \$88,400)

21.9 The estimated increased requirements of \$88,400 relate to established posts, resulting from the temporary borrowing of the P-4 post referred to in the preceding paragraph and higher than standard salary costs.

## 2 (d) Centre for Economic and Social Information

### I. Programme developments

21.10 Progress during the biennium has continued to increase the availability of economic and social information. However, the general edition of the periodical Development Forum, which is largely financed from extrabudgetary resources, is faced with a serious financial crisis, in spite of the fact that



the business edition, which contains general information and specific notices for projects and tenders from the World Bank, UNDP, the Inter-American Bank and the Asian Development Bank, is financially self-supporting.

II. Revised budget estimates (Increase: \$78,000)

21.11 The anticipated increased requirements of \$78,000 relate to established posts (\$19,100), due to a very low vacancy rate, and common staff costs (\$58,900), primarily for separation allowances in the case of a senior staff member.

3. Departmental administration

I. Programme developments

21.12 The Executive Office has continued its efforts to establish a management information system to assist in the decision-making process within the media divisions. In this connexion, a change in the accounts code structure for 1980-1981 has been proposed in consultation with the Budget Division and is now being studied by the Accounts Division.

II. Revised budget estimates (Increase: \$767,300)

21.13 Increased requirements of \$767,300 are anticipated under established posts (\$3,100), under general temporary assistance (\$52,900), arising from a need for the temporary replacement of staff of the media divisions assigned to conferences and meetings held away from New York, under overtime (\$16,200), under common staff costs (\$8,900) and under communications (\$686,200), due to rate increases for cables and pouches, as well as an increase in the volume of information disseminated.

4. World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women (Information activity)

21.14 An additional amount of \$6,000 was required for travel associated with the production of radio programmes, offset by a reduction in a similar amount under public information contracts.

B. Information Service, Geneva

I. Programme developments

21.15 The established staffing authorized for the Service was increased by approximately 24 Professional work months through the redeployment of staff from the information centres.

II. Revised budget estimates (Increase: \$336,500)

21.16 Additional requirements in a total amount of \$336,500 are anticipated under established posts (\$318,600) due to higher than average salaries of staff and the redeployment referred to in the preceding paragraph, under overtime (\$3,800) in connexion with radio transmissions between New York and Geneva and under common staff costs (\$14,100).

## C. Information centres

### I. Programme developments

21.17 To meet the exigencies of service in the public information programme, posts were redeployed from the information centres to the executive direction and management programme and the External Relations Division, New York, as well as to the Information Service, Geneva. The Ouagadougou information centre has not been established.

### II. Revised budget estimates (Decrease: \$769,100)

21.18 A total estimated surplus of \$904,000 under established posts (\$651,900) and common staff costs (\$252,100) due to vacancies and the redeployment of posts, is reduced by estimated additional requirements of \$134,900 under general temporary assistance (\$5,600), under overtime (\$900), under external translation (\$1,700), under rental and maintenance of premises (\$67,200) due to increased rental costs at 11 centres, the relocation of four centres to new premises and increased utility rates, under rental and maintenance of equipment (\$15,500) due to increased cost for labour and gasoline, under communications (\$37,900) due to increased telephone, postal and cable rates, and under freight costs (\$6,100).

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