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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985

Standards of accommodation for air travel

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the standards of accommodation for air travel (A/C.5/40/22 and Corr.1). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided it with additional information.
2. Paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report contains information on exceptions to the rules on standards of accommodation for air travel in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 32/198 of 21 December 1977 as amended by the Assembly in section VII of resolution 39/236 of 18 December 1984. Thus, during the period 1 July 1984 to 30 June 1985, 60 exceptions were granted (67 were granted during the last reporting period) at an additional cost of \$41,973. Paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report indicates that the total estimated savings accrued during the period under review as a result of the approval of resolution 32/198 amount to \$298,500. However, representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that estimated savings had decreased from the 1984 level because of a reduction in travel and the wider use of business class for trips lasting more than nine hours. The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the practice of reporting hypothetical savings that are estimated to have resulted from utilization of economy and other air fares should be discontinued; instead, the report should emphasize the total additional costs incurred by the Organization as a result of exceptions to the current rules.
3. While recognizing the importance of continuing to monitor exceptions to standards of accommodation for air travel, the Advisory Committee believes that the present procedure should be modified. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General should in future submit his annual report on this matter direct to the Advisory Committee. Following review, the Advisory Committee would report to the General Assembly as necessary.
