

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/34/59
29 November 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fourth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 98 and 42

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS
AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS
TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Committee on Disarmament

Administrative and financial implications of the draft
resolution contained in document A/C.1/34/L.36

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

1. The First Committee, at its 44th meeting held on 27 November 1979, adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/34/L.36. It had before it a statement of financial implications (A/C.1/34/L.50).
2. The draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/34/L.36, noting that the Committee on Disarmament had adopted its rules of procedure, would request the Secretary-General to provide the staff as well as the necessary assistance and services needed by the Committee on Disarmament and any subsidiary bodies which it may establish, in accordance with the arrangements contained in those rules.
3. In paragraph 120 of its resolution S-10/2, the General Assembly welcomed the agreement reached following appropriate consultations among Member States during the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament that the Committee on Disarmament would:

"...

- (b) Adopt its own rules of procedure;

...

(f) Submit a report to the General Assembly annually, or more frequently as appropriate, and provide its formal and other relevant documents to the the States Members of the United Nations on a regular basis;".

4. At its 1979 session, the Committee on Disarmament received conference services in English, French, Russian and Spanish on the basis of the biennium 1978-1979 budget originally approved by the General Assembly for the servicing of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. An ad hoc working group of the Committee prepared draft rules of procedure and the Committee subsequently adopted article X of its rules of procedure which stated:

"Simultaneous interpretation, verbatim records of public plenary meetings and documents shall be provided in the languages used within the United Nations system by member States of the Committee who are participating in its work a/ ...

a/ In accordance with this provision the Committee reached an understanding to use, for the time being, Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish."

5. For the session of the Committee in 1980, the addition of services in Arabic, in accordance with the rules of procedure, would require expenditures of \$350,000, as follows:

| | \$ |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Interpretation | 190,300 |
| Documentation: | |
| In-session (700 pages) | 59,500 |
| Post-session (40 pages) | <u>3,400</u> |
| Verbatim records | 88,600 |
| Reproduction and distribution | <u>8,200</u> |
| | <u>350,000</u> |

6. Should Chinese language services also be required, a similar amount would be involved, depending on the date on which Chinese would become an official and working language of the Committee.

7. Article XIII of the rules of procedure relates to reports to the United Nations General Assembly. Paragraph 45 states that, unless the Committee decides otherwise, the ... /reports/ shall contain:

/...

"...

(f) working papers and proposals submitted during the year;

(g) verbatim records of the meetings held during the year, distributed as a separate annex;

(h) other relevant documents."

The implementation of this article would require the reproduction and distribution, as a supplement to the Official Records of the General Assembly, of some 2,750 pages of verbatim records, working papers and other relevant documents, which have already been provided to the Committee. These documents would need to be translated, reproduced and distributed in all six languages of the General Assembly. The cost of external reproduction and distribution in four languages is estimated at \$68,000, while the cost of translation, reproduction and distribution in a fifth and sixth language would be \$260,000 for each language.

8. As noted by the General Assembly in resolution S-10/2, quoted above, the Committee is empowered to provide its formal and other relevant documents to the States Members of the United Nations on a regular basis. This was done in respect of the documents of the Committee at its 1979 session. Implementation of article XIII would therefore result in duplication of documentation, which the Secretary-General wishes, under the terms of General Assembly resolution 33/56, to draw to the attention of the General Assembly.

9. In addition to services in the four languages which have been used by the Committee on Disarmament during 1979 and related conference expenditures, the costs of implementation of the draft resolution, should it be adopted by the General Assembly, would be as follows:

| | \$ | \$ |
|--|----------------|-------------------|
| <u>For 1979</u> | | |
| Annexing of verbatim records, working papers and other relevant documents to the report to the General Assembly: | | |
| English, French, Russian and Spanish | 68,000 | |
| Arabic and Chinese | <u>520,000</u> | 588,000 <u>a/</u> |
| <u>For 1980</u> | | |
| Provision of Arabic language services to the Committee | 350,000 | |

a/ Annexing of these records, if required, will be completed in 1980.

/...

| | \$ | \$ |
|---|----------------|-------------------|
| Provision of Chinese language services to the Committee | 350,000 | <u>b/</u> |
| Annexing of verbatim records, working papers and other relevant documents to the report to the General Assembly | <u>102,000</u> | 802,000 <u>b/</u> |
| <u>For 1981</u> | | |
| As 1980 | | 802,000 |

10. The estimated costs indicated above are based on full cost, at current rates, and amount in total to \$2,192,000. Towards the close of the present session of the General Assembly, when the definitive pattern of conferences for 1980 is considered it will be indicated in the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements to be submitted at that time, to what extent the costs in respect of conference servicing dealt with in this document can be absorbed within existing resources. Therefore, in the event of the adoption of the draft resolution, no additional appropriations would be requested at this stage.

b/ This figure will be correspondingly reduced dependent on the date on which Chinese would become an official and working language of the Committee.