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QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
contained in document A/SPC/34/L.18/Rev.1

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

1. The Special Political Committee, at its 41st meeting held on 4 December 1979 adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/34/L.18/Rev.1. It also had before it a statement of financial implications, document A/SPC/34/L.22.
2. The administrative and financial implications for the United Nations arising from the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/34/L.18/Rev.1 relate only to its operative paragraphs 1, 3, 7, 11, 12 and 13. While under the terms of other operative paragraphs of the draft resolution the utilization of resources is envisioned, it is anticipated that this could be met from within the resources requested by the Secretary-General in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 and in respect of which the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has concurred in its report, document A/34/7, paragraphs 27.1 to 27.19.
 - (a) Operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution (\$661,200)
3. Under the terms of operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution the General Assembly would, *inter alia*, decide to maintain the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities to be known henceforth as the "United Nations Committee on Information."
4. The Secretary-General understands that it would be the intention of the Committee to hold three sessions for a duration of two weeks each during each year of the 1980-1981 biennium and that meeting facilities would be required in five languages (Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

5. Based on the above, the estimated cost for each session would be as follows:

	\$	\$
I. Pre-session (20 pages)		
(i) Translation, revision and typing	6,100	
(ii) Reproduction and distribution	<u>800</u>	6,900
II. In-session		
<u>Department of Conference Services</u>		
(i) Interpretation (16 interpreters)	64,500	
(ii) Translation, revision and typing (30 pages)	22,000	
(iii) Reproduction and distribution	700	
(iv) Staff requirements (1 conference officer and documents clerk)	<u>700</u>	
Subtotal - Department of Conference Services	<u>87,900</u>	
<u>Office of General Services</u>		
(i) Sound technicians	2,800	
(ii) General operating expenses	2,000	
(iii) Security service	<u>5,200</u>	
Subtotal - Office of General Services	<u>10,000</u>	
Total In-session		97,900
III. Post-session (15 pages)		
(i) Translation, revision and typing	4,600	
(ii) Reproduction and distribution	<u>800</u>	<u>5,400</u>
Grand Total		<u><u>110,200</u></u>

6. The estimated costs for all six sessions, on a full-cost basis at current rates, would amount to \$661,200.

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(b) Operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution

7. By operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution the General Assembly would request all organizations in the United Nations system, particularly UNESCO, to continue to participate actively in the work of the Committee and to facilitate its task in fulfilling its mandate.

8. The Secretary-General had requested in paragraph 27.9 of the 1980-1981 proposed programme budget (A/34/6, vol. II) the conversion to established posts of the two temporary posts (one P-4 and one General Service) which were authorized in 1979 to service the Committee. However the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report (A/34/7, para. 27.5) has recommended that the conversion of the two posts be deferred since the future mandate and programme of work of the Committee would depend on decisions to be taken by the Assembly at its current session. Should the General Assembly agree to the continuance of the Committee it is proposed that the two posts be converted to established posts at no additional cost.

(c) Operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution (\$4,600)

9. In operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution the General Assembly would recommend the undertaking of the necessary consultations concerning the participation of the United Nations Committee on Information in the work of the intergovernmental planning Conference on Communication Development in Paris in 1980.

10. It is the understanding of the Secretary-General that this would involve travel and per diem for three persons (the Chairman, Rapporteur and Secretary of the Committee) to Paris for a period of one week at an estimated cost of \$4,600.

(d) Operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution (\$476,300)

11. Under the terms of operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General inter alia to take the necessary measures immediately to ensure a balance in the use of the official languages.

12. The production of language versions of both printed and audio-visual materials is envisioned to achieve this goal. For the 1980-1981 biennium this would require three teams of writer/adapters for the production of Arabic, French and Spanish printed information materials. Each team would consist of two Professional (P-3) and two General Service posts. It is estimated that one P-3 post could be redeployed from the French Language Production Section and would therefore result in a net requirement of five Professional (P-3) and six General Service posts at an estimated cost of \$324,400.

13. In addition, to prepare on a weekly basis an Arabic TV news package and a TV news programme for francophone Africa one Professional (P-4) and one principal level General Service post would be required at an estimated cost of \$76,900.

14. An amount of \$75,000 would also be required for the printing and reproduction of the additional material produced in Arabic, French and Spanish including a provision to meet requests from the information centres.

15. On the basis of experience gained in the 1980-1981 biennium it is envisioned that the adaptation and production of printed information material in the other official languages would be undertaken in future biennia.

(e) Operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution (\$466,800)

16. By operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to issue the UN Chronicle again on a monthly basis and to ensure its simultaneous publication in the English, French and Spanish languages and also to issue it in Arabic.

17. It will be recalled that at its thirty-third session, on the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the General Assembly changed the periodicity of the UN Chronicle from a monthly to a quarterly publication and, beginning 1979, reduced the staffing resources of the Press and Publications Division by two (one P-2 and one General Service) posts. Reductions were also made in respect of external printing. It is therefore proposed that these two posts be restored together with an amount of \$344,300 for external printing to facilitate the publication of the Chronicle on a monthly basis for a total estimated cost of \$436,100.

18. As regards ensuring its simultaneous publication in the English, French and Spanish languages as well as to provide for its issuance in Arabic, it is envisioned that the team of writer/adapters proposed in paragraph 12 above would have as one of its primary responsibilities the adaptation and translation of the Chronicle for the Arabic, French and Spanish editions. However, as regards the Arabic edition an additional Professional (P-2) post would be required for a proofreader at an estimated cost of \$30,700.

(f) Operative paragraph 13 of the draft resolution (\$400,000)

19. In operative paragraph 13 of the draft resolution the General Assembly would decide that continued publication of Development Forum as an interagency project is essential and that the United Nations participation in its production should be ensured.

20. The publication of Development Forum began in 1972 after several years of study and investigation including discussions on the possibility of it being an interagency publication. Development Forum was envisioned to be an open forum in which experts would be able to discuss before its readers the international economic and social issues facing the United Nations. It represents a response to the call for special efforts to mobilize public opinion in support of development, as expressed in paragraph 84 of General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, in connexion with the "International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade" and is in accord with Economic and Social Council resolution 1806 (LV) of 8 August 1973 on the "Dissemination of information and mobilization

of public opinion relative to problems of development". It is also responsive to mandates relating to information such as those for preparatory and follow-up support of major United Nations conferences and to requests for continuous dissemination of information as a means of exchanging development experience particularly among developing countries.

21. Development Forum is financed from extrabudgetary resources consisting primarily of contributions from Governments and other organizations and programmes within the United Nations system, subscriptions to the business edition and deficit underwriting by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Regional Development banks. Although the business edition is self-sustaining, the general edition has had an adverse financial impact on the financing of the periodical. As a result the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), by its decision 1979/9, recognized Development Forum as the single regular periodical of the organizations of the United Nations system reflecting the joint purposes of their public information activities, in particular in the economic and social field and instructed the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) to make an immediate study of the long-term situation of the general edition of Development Forum and to present to ACC proposals aimed at strengthening the financial and organizational structures of the publication. The report of JUNIC, document ACC/1979/82, on the future of the periodical has been considered by ACC and at its third regular session, 1979, ACC by its decision 1979/19, inter alia, recognized the need for long-term financing and instructed the Joint Committee to expedite, as soon as possible, a system of predictable voluntary contributions based on fixed criteria, to be implemented from 1982 and beyond and urged the organizations of the United Nations system in a position to do so to contribute to the financing of the publication for 1980 and 1981.

22. The 1980-1981 proposed cost plan for the general edition of Development Forum, which was included in the report of the Joint Committee and which is reproduced in the annex to the present administrative and financial implications statement would require expenditures of approximately \$2.1 million.

23. In view of the developments in ACC and JUNIC as indicated in the preceding paragraphs 21 and 22, the Secretary-General proposes that an amount of \$400,000, which in the opinion of ACC is a reasonable contribution from the United Nations towards the financing of Development Forum, be made available for this purpose within the context of a jointly financed activity under the auspices of ACC.

Summary

24. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/34/L.18/Rev.1, additional appropriations in the amount of \$1,347,700 would be required under section 27A as shown below. A further provision of \$112,400 would be required for staff assessment under section 31 offset by an equal amount from income from staff assessment, Income Section 1. As regards the requirements for conference servicing, as indicated in paragraph 6 above at an estimated cost of \$661,200, towards the close of the present session of the General Assembly, when the definitive pattern of conferences 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 can be absorbed within existing resources.

	\$US	\$US
<u>Section 27A. Department of Public Information, Headquarters</u>		
Part (c) Paragraph 10	4,600	
(d) Paragraph 12	324,400	
Paragraph 13	76,900	
Paragraph 14	75,000	
(e) Paragraph 17	436,100	
Paragraph 18	30,700	
(f) Paragraph 22	<u>400,000</u>	1,347,700
<u>Section 31. Staff assessment</u>		
Part (d) Paragraph 12	70,200	
Paragraph 13	19,400	
(e) Paragraph 17	17,600	
Paragraph 18	<u>5,200</u>	112,400
<u>Income Section 1. Income from staff assessment</u>		
Part (d) Paragraph 12	(70,200)	
Paragraph 13	(19,400)	
(e) Paragraph 17	(17,600)	
Paragraph 18	<u>(5,200)</u>	(112,400)
		<u>1,347,700</u>

Development Forum - proposed cost plan
1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983

		<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
		(thousands of dollars)			
1.	<u>Staff salaries</u>				
	<u>Core staff</u>				
	Editor-in-Chief P-5	55		66	
	Deputy Editor-in-Chief P-4 <u>1/</u>	47		57	
	Circulation Supervisor G-5	23		28	
	Research Assistant G-6	23		28	
	Administrative Clerk G-4	23		28	
	2 Secretaries G-4	46		56	
	Subtotal	<u>217</u>	<u>238.7</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>289.3</u>
	<u>English edition</u>				
	Editor P-4	47		57	
	Editorial Assistant G-7	35		42	
	Typist G-3	23		28	
	Subtotal	<u>105</u>	<u>115.5</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>139.7</u>
	<u>French edition</u>				
	Editor P-4 <u>1/</u>	-		-	
	Editorial Assistant G-6	23		28	
	Typist G-3	23		28	
	Subtotal	<u>46</u>	<u>50.6</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>61.6</u>
	<u>Spanish edition <u>2/</u></u>				
	Editorial Assistant G-5	23		28	
	Typing cost <u>3/</u>	-		-	
	Subtotal	<u>23</u>	<u>25.3</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>30.8</u>
2.	<u>Common staff costs (26%)</u>	101	111.1	123	135.3
3.	<u>Temporary assistance</u>				
	Outside authors	20		28	
	Freelance assistance	45		60	
	Translation costs	22		37	
	Subtotal	<u>87</u>	<u>101.2</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>137.5</u>

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u> (thousands of dollars)	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
4. <u>Travel</u>				
On writing assignments	10		12	
On regionalization of editions <u>4/</u>			20	
On consultation with Headquarters	<u>4</u>		<u>6</u>	
Subtotal	<u>14</u>	<u>15.4</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>41.8</u>
5. <u>Meeting costs Editorial Advisory Board <u>5/</u></u>	20	20.5	23	25.3
6. <u>Printing</u>	170	185	210	231
7. <u>Distribution <u>4/</u></u>	170	185	220	242.2
8. <u>Other operating costs</u>				
Communications (other than dist. postage)	23		30	
Miscellaneous services	10		15	
Supplies and materials	<u>14</u>		<u>20</u>	
Subtotal	<u>47</u>	<u>51.7</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>66</u>
GRAND TOTAL, GENERAL EDITION	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,100 <u>6/</u></u>	<u>1,275</u>	<u>1,402.5</u>

1/ Serves simultaneously as Deputy Editor-in-Chief and Head of the French Edition.

2/ Done on a translation basis.

3/ Typing costs included in translation costs in Mexico.

4/ Translation, printing, distribution costs include up to three regional editions.

5/ Cost for one meeting, three ex officio members, Chairman, six members.

6/ 1981 costs 10 per cent above 1980.