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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

Standards of accommodation for air travel

Report of the Secretary-General

INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is presented in accordance with General Assembly decision 44/442 of 21 December 1989, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to submit to it annual reports on standards of accommodation for air travel. It covers the period from 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991. As also requested by the Assembly in its decision 40/455 of 18 December 1985 and its resolution 45/248 A, section XIII, of 21 December 1990, respectively, information is included on all expenditures by the United Nations for first-class travel and on the meetings attended by eminent persons for whom exceptions have been made for first-class air travel.

2. During that period, standards of accommodation for air travel were governed by General Assembly resolution 42/214 of 21 December 1987, in which the Assembly provided that all individuals, with the exception of the Secretary-General and the heads of delegations of the least developed countries to the regular and special sessions of the General Assembly, whose travel was financed by United Nations organizations and programmes and who had been previously entitled to first-class accommodation, would be required to travel at the class immediately below first class. In the same resolution, the Assembly also authorized the Secretary-General to exercise his discretion in making exceptions to allow first-class travel on a case-by-case basis.

* A/46/150.

I. DELEGATION TRAVEL

3. As indicated in paragraph 2, General Assembly resolution 42/214 limits the payment of first-class accommodation by air to one representative of each Member State designated as a least developed country attending regular, special or emergency sessions of the Assembly. Table 1 sets out the expenditures arising from payment of such travel.

Table 1. First class travel with respect to delegates of Member States attending the General Assembly

(1 July 1990-30 June 1991)

| | <u>No. of journeys</u> | <u>Total cost of travel</u> \$ |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Forty-fifth session of the General Assembly | <u>26</u> | <u>117 420</u> |
| Total | <u>26</u> | <u>117 420</u> |

II. EXCEPTIONS AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

4. As previously stated, General Assembly resolution 42/214 authorized the Secretary-General to exercise his discretion in making exceptions to allow first-class travel on a case-by-case basis. In addition, business-class travel may be authorized by the Secretary-General in special circumstances, in accordance with administrative instruction ST/AI/249/Rev.3 of 29 March 1989.

5. Generally, in reviewing cases that may warrant an exception, the Secretary-General takes into consideration the following circumstances:

(a) A medical condition may exist necessitating a level of comfort not available in the normal standard of accommodation to which the traveller is entitled. Such cases are referred to the United Nations Medical Director for recommendation. Exceptions may also be granted when a traveller is of an advanced age and the normal standard of travel would have a detrimental effect on the traveller's health;

(b) The normal standard of accommodation is not available, and owing to exigencies of the service, the traveller is required to travel on a particular date. Cases also arise where accommodation at the normal entitlement is not available and the cost of the daily subsistence allowance, whilst waiting for the next available seat, would be greater than the higher standard of travel;

(c) Where the traveller is considered an eminent person such as a former head of State or prominent personality who is donating his or her services free of charge to the Organization, and, in some cases, at a loss of personal

income, such individuals may be accorded the standard of accommodation to which they have become accustomed;

(d) A staff member, after completing a full day of work, is required to travel through the night in order to resume work, attend meetings or present a paper at another location on the following morning or immediately upon arrival. Where such cases involve arduous journeys, it has been deemed reasonable that the standard of accommodation accorded to the traveller provides the best rest possible while travelling, or provides conditions most conducive to work while flying, or both.

6. In respect of the exceptions to air travel authorized during the period from 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991, owing to the circumstances referred to in paragraph 5 above, the present report provides detailed information as to the additional cost of, and reasons for, such exceptions in annexes I-V.

7. For travel during the period from 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991, the Secretary-General exercised his discretion by authorizing, as an exception, 65 cases of first-class travel. In addition, during the same period, the Secretary-General authorized business-class travel as an exception to the standards of accommodation in 35 cases.

8. It should be noted that, during the period under review, the Secretary-General was accompanied on all his trips by a personal aide/security officer who travelled with him in first class.

9. As a comparison, tables 2 and 3 provide a summary, by category, of all the exceptions granted during the present and previous reporting period.

10. The total additional cost incurred by the Organization as a result of exceptions to the applicable provisions during the period from 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991 was \$100,477. This compares with a total additional cost of \$95,956 for the previous reporting period.

11. In the context of monitoring adherence to the standards of accommodation for air travel, cases were identified in which a higher standard of air travel was undertaken than the normal entitlement, for which no exception had been sought or granted. In a number of these cases, subsequent ex post facto approval was sought for an exception to the standards of accommodation. In this regard, details of the exceptions authorized by the Secretary-General relating to the previous reporting periods are outlined in annex V to the present report.

Table 2. Summary of exceptions
 (1 July 1990-30 June 1991)

| Reasons for exceptions | First class | | Business class | | Total | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | Number of trips | Additional cost \$ | Number of trips | Additional cost \$ | Number of trips | Additional cost \$ |
| Medical condition or advanced age | 14 | 23 890 | 7 | 7 914 | 21 | 31 804 |
| Standard of accommodation not available | 24 | 10 619 | 7 | 3 142 | 31 | 13 761 |
| Eminent persons | 18 | 26 343 | 16 | 7 750 | 34 | 34 093 |
| Arduous journeys | 2 | 1 457 | 5 | 2 898 | 7 | 4 355 |
| Personal a/les | 7 | 16 464 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 16 464 |
| Total | 65 | 78 773 | 35 | 21 704 | 100 | 100 477 |

Table 3. Summary of exceptions

(1 July 1989-30 June 1990)

| Reasons for exceptions | First class | | Business class | | Total | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Number of trips | Additional cost | Number of trips | Additional cost | Number of trips | Additional cost |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Medical condition or advanced age | 20 | 29 072 | 8 | 5 485 | 28 | 34 557 |
| Standard of accommodation not available | 25 | 10 241 | 12 | 7 740 | 37 | 17 981 |
| Eminent persons | 19 | 20 655 | 13 | 3 928 | 32 | 24 583 |
| Arduous journeys | 4 | 3 311 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 311 |
| Personal aides | 8 | 15 524 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 15 524 |
| Total | 76 | 78 803 | 33 | 17 153 | 109 | 95 956 |

Annex IEXCEPTIONS AUTHORIZED OWING TO MEDICAL CONDITION OR
ADVANCED AGE

(1 July 1990-30 June 1991)

| Designation of traveller | Itinerary | Additional cost |
|---|---|--------------------|
| | | \$ |
| A. <u>First class</u> | | |
| Chairman, Committee on Contributions | Lahore/Karachi/Zurich/Vienna/ Zurich/New York/Geneva/Lahore | 16 |
| Chairman, Committee on Contributions | Lahore/Karachi/Zurich/Geneva/ New York/Zurich/Vienna/Zurich/ Karachi/Lahore | 196 |
| Consultant, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | Tunis/New York | 588 |
| Member, United Nations Administrative Tribunal (UNAT) | Delhi/New York/Delhi | 1 935 |
| Member, UNAT | London/New York/London | 2 700 |
| Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) | Geneva/Cairo/Nairobi | 436 |
| Executive Director, UNEP | .../Prague/Piestany/Prague/ London/Stockholm/Sundsvall/ Stockholm/Geneva/Cairo/.../ Copenhagen/Geneva/.../ New York/Washington/New York/ .../Geneva/Zurich/Vienna/ London/Geneva/Nairobi a/ | 3 858 |
| Executive Director, UNEP | .../Amsterdam/Cairo/Nairobi | 3 764 |
| Executive Director, UNEP | Nairobi/Frankfurt/Moscow/ Frankfurt/Valletta/Frankfurt/ Montreal/Paris/Cairo/London/ Geneva/Nairobi | 2 581 |

/...

| Designation of traveller | Itinerary | Additional cost |
|--|--|----------------------|
| | | \$ |
| Executive Director, UNEP | Nairobi/Cairo/Paris/.../ Frankfurt/Cairo/Nairobi | 2 915 |
| Executive Director, UNEP | .../Geneva/Cairo/Nairobi | 1 033 |
| Executive Director, UNEP | .../Amsterdam/Geneva/Paris/ Geneva/.../New York/Washington/ New York/.../Cairo/Nairobi | 2 742 |
| Executive Director, UNEP | .../Stockholm/Geneva/Cairo/ Nairobi | 858 |
| Executive Director, UNEP | Geneva/Madrid/Brussels/Geneva/ Prague/Piestany/Bratislava/ Prague/Frankfurt/... | <u>768</u> |
| Total, A | | <u>23 890</u> |
| B. Business class | | |
| Senior Technical Adviser, Department of International Economic Cooperation | New York/Geneva/Rome/Paris/ New York | 1 000 |
| Senior Technical Adviser, Department of International Economic Cooperation | New York/Rome/Paris/New York | 1 927 |
| Consultant, Offices of the Secretary-General | Geneva/New York/Geneva | 722 |
| Consultant, Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization Coordinator | Melbourne/Apia/Melbourne | 675 |
| Chief, United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) | New York/London/Vienna/Geneva/ New York | 800 |
| Staff member, Division for Palestinian Rights | New York/Geneva/New York | 1 345 |

| Designation of traveller | Itinerary | Additional cost |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|
| | | \$ |
| Staff member, Division for Palestinian Rights | New York/Geneva/New York | <u>1 445</u> |
| Total, B | | <u>7 914</u> |
| Grand total, A and B | | <u>31 804</u> |

a/ The points of ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that some legs of the itinerary were by the regular standard of accommodation and no exception was involved.

Annex IIEXCEPTIONS AUTHORIZED WHEN THE STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION
WAS NOT AVAILABLE

(1 July 1990-30 June 1991)

| Designation of traveller | Itinerary | Additional cost |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | \$ |
| A. <u>First class</u> | | |
| Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General | .../Tunis/Paris/... a/ | 78 |
| Assistant Secretary-General Office of Human Resources Management | .../Amman/Baghdad/Amman/... | 94 |
| Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Human Resources Management | .../Amman/Baghdad/Amman/... | 94 |
| Minister of Planning, Ecuador | Quito/Mexico/Quito | 528 |
| Staff member, Office of the Secretary-General | .../Tunis/Paris/... | 78 |
| Chef de Cabinet | .../Amman/Baghdad/Amman/... | 77 |
| Interpreter, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) | Geneva/London/Kuwait/... | 631 |
| Administrator, UNDP | Istanbul/Delhi | 224 |
| Consultant, UNDRO | .../Frankfurt/Amman/Tunis | 525 |
| Under-Secretary-General, Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship | .../Harare/Nairobi/Kampala/... | 580 |

/...

| Designation of traveller | Itinerary | Additional cost |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| | | \$ |
| Staff member, UNHCR | Geneva/London/Kuwait/... | 631 |
| Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) | .../London/New York | 1 260 |
| Assistant Secretary-General, UNICEF | .../London/New York | 1 260 |
| Expert, UNHCR | Geneva/London/Kuwait/... | 631 |
| Participant in the Expert Group Meeting on Wind Energy Technology | .../Shantou/Bangkok/Dhaka | 112 |
| Director, UNHCR | .../Frankfurt/Cairo | 762 |
| Staff Member, UNHCR | Geneva/London/Kuwait/... | 631 |
| Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) | .../London/Amman/... | 396 |
| Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) | .../Bujumbura/Addis Ababa | 91 |
| Interpreter, UNHCR | Geneva/London/Kuwait/... | 631 |
| Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office at Geneva | .../London/Amman/... | 759 |
| Judge, Federal Court, Lagos, United Nations Office at Vienna | Lagos/London/... | 382 |
| Head of Asia Bureau, UNHCR | .../Manila/Kuala Lumpur/... | 134 |
| Head of Asia Bureau, UNHCR | .../Jakarta/Singapore/... | <u>30</u> |
| Total, A | | <u>10 619</u> |

| Designation of traveller | Itinerary | Additional cost |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | \$ |
| B. Business class | | |
| Head of Desk for North Africa and the Middle East, UNHCR | Geneva/Zurich/Cairo/Zurich/Geneva | 274 |
| Specialist, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) | Geneva/Paris/Amman/... | 200 |
| Special Adviser to the High Commissioner, UNHCR | Geneva/Zurich/Cairo/Zurich/Geneva | 274 |
| Member, Committee for Programme and Coordination | Yaounde/New York/Yaounde | 414 |
| Senior Legal Consultant, Office of the Secretary-General | Caracas/Mexico/... | 42 |
| Staff member, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) | Geneva/Kathmandu/... | 1 782 |
| Director, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) | .../Geneva/Nairobi/... | <u>156</u> |
| Total, B | | <u>3 142</u> |
| Grand total, A and B | | <u>13 761</u> |

a/ The points of ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that some legs of the itinerary were by the regular standard of accommodation and no exception was involved.

Annex III

EXCEPTIONS AUTHORIZED FOR EMINENT PERSONS

(1 July 1990-30 June 1991)

| Designation of traveller | Itinerary | Additional cost |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------|
| | | \$ |
| A. <u>First class</u> | | |
| 1. <u>Meetings of the Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on Development and Environment</u> | | |
| Former Head of State of Mexico | Mexico/Santiago/Mexico | 491 |
| Former Head of State of Ecuador | Quito/Santiago/Quito | 223 |
| Former Head of State of Ecuador | Quito/New York/Quito | 242 |
| Former Head of State of Colombia | Bogota/Santiago/Bogota | 282 |
| Former Head of State of Costa Rica | San Jose/Santiago/San Jose | 691 |
| Former Head of State of Costa Rica | San Jose/New York/San Jose | <u>157</u> |
| Total, 1 | | <u>2 086</u> |
| 2. <u>Sasakawa Prize Selection Committee meeting</u> | | |
| Member, Selection Committee | Jeddah/Geneva/Jeddah | 726 |
| Member, Selection Committee | London/Geneva/London | 293 |
| Member, Selection Committee | London/Stockholm/London | 1 528 |
| Member, Selection Committee | Tokyo/Geneva/Tokyo | 2 459 |
| Member, Selection Committee | The Hague/Geneva/The Hague | 403 |

| Designation of traveller | Itinerary | Additional cost |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | \$ |
| Member, Selection Committee | Bogota/Geneva/Bogota | 1 698 |
| Member, Selection Committee | Wilmington/Geneva/Wilmington | <u>839</u> |
| Total, 2 | | <u>7 946</u> |
| 3. <u>Eleventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development</u> | | |
| Director, Institute of Immunology of the National University of Colombia | Bogota/New York/Bogota | <u>432</u> |
| Total, 3 | | <u>432</u> |
| 4. <u>Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission</u> | | |
| Former Foreign Minister of Indonesia | Jakarta/New York/Jakarta | 6 000 |
| Former Foreign Minister of Indonesia | Jakarta/Kuwait/Jakarta | 3 210 |
| Former Foreign Minister of Indonesia | Jakarta/Geneva/Jakarta | <u>5 510</u> |
| Total, 4 | | <u>14 720</u> |
| 5. <u>Goodwill mission</u> | | |
| Goodwill Ambassador, UNICEF | Tokyo/Hong Kong/Dhaka/Tokyo | <u>1 159</u> |
| Total, 5 | | <u>1 159</u> |
| Total, A | | <u>26 343</u> |

| Designation of traveller | Itinerary | Additional cost |
|---|--|--------------------|
| | | \$ |
| B. <u>Business Class</u> | | |
| 1. <u>Study on the Intergovernmental Subsidiary Structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)</u> | | |
| Director, Asia Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands | Amsterdam/Bangkok/Amsterdam | 277 |
| Director, Asia Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands | Amsterdam/Bangkok/Amsterdam | 338 |
| Secretary for Directorate-General of Foreign Economic Relations, Indonesia | Jakarta/Bangkok/Jakarta | 78 |
| Secretary for Directorate- General of Foreign Economic Relations, Indonesia | Jakarta/Bangkok/Jakarta | 82 |
| Expert, China | .../Hong Kong/Bangkok/ Hong Kong/... a/ | 41 |
| Expert, China | Beijing/Bangkok/Beijing | 63 |
| Chairman, National Development Bank of Sri Lanka | Colombo/Bangkok/Colombo | 65 |
| Expert, Japan | Tokyo/Bangkok/Tokyo | 115 |
| Expert, Japan | Tokyo/Bangkok/Tokyo | 127 |
| Expert | Seoul/Bangkok/Seoul | 126 |
| Expert | Seoul/Bangkok/Seoul | 136 |
| Expert, Philippines | Manila/Bangkok/Manila | 72 |
| Expert, Australia | Canberra/Bangkok/Canberra | 444 |
| Expert, Australia | .../Sydney/Bangkok/Sydney/... | <u>431</u> |
| Total, 1 | | <u>2 395</u> |

| Designation of traveller | Itinerary | Additional cost |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------|
| | | \$ |
| 2. <u>European Seminar on the Question of Palestine</u> | | |
| Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations, United States of America | New York/Madrid/New York | <u>1 650</u> |
| Total, 2 | | <u>1 650</u> |
| 3. <u>Women and literacy production for the International Literacy Year 1990</u> | | |
| Participant | London/New York/London | <u>3 705</u> |
| Total, 3 | | <u>3 705</u> |
| Total, B | | <u>7 750</u> |
| Grand total, A and B | | <u><u>34 093</u></u> |

a/ The points of ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that some legs of the itinerary were by the regular standard of accommodation and no exception was involved.

Annex IV

EXCEPTIONS AUTHORIZED FOR ARDUOUS JOURNEYS

(1 July 1990-30 June 1991)

| Designation of traveller | Itinerary | Additional cost |
|--|--|---------------------|
| | | \$ |
| A. <u>First class</u> | | |
| Secretary-General, UNCTAD | .../New York/Buenos Aires/... a/ | 841 |
| Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Office of the Secretary-General | .../Singapore/New York | <u>616</u> |
| Total, A | | <u>1 457</u> |
| B. <u>Business class</u> | | |
| Scientist, Working Group, Global Environment Facility | Accra/Geneva/Accra | 264 |
| Scientist, Working Group, Global Environment Facility | Paris/Washington/Paris | 970 |
| Scientist, Working Group, Global Environment Facility | Santo Domingo/Washington/ Santo Domingo | 50 |
| Scientist, Working Group, Global Environment Facility | Mexico/Washington/Mexico | 300 |
| Scientist, Working Group, Global Environment Facility | London/Washington/London | <u>1 314</u> |
| Total, B | | <u>2 898</u> |
| Grand total, A and B | | <u><u>4 355</u></u> |

a/ The points of ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that some legs of the itinerary were by the regular standard of accommodation and no exception was involved.

Annex V

EXCEPTIONS RELATING TO PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIODS

| Reasons for exception | Designation of traveller | Itinerary | Additional cost |
|---|--|---|---------------------|
| | | | \$ |
| A. <u>First class</u> | | | |
| (a) Standard of accommodation not available | Staff member, ESCAP | .../Bombay/Colombo/... a/ | 34 |
| | Participant, Ad Hoc Working Group on Southern Africa | .../Kinshasa/Geneva | 746 |
| (b) Eminent person | Former Prime Minister of Australia | Melbourne/Los Angeles/New York/Washington/London/Geneva/Cairo/Singapore/Melbourne | <u>1 581</u> |
| Total, A | | | <u>2 361</u> |
| B. <u>Business class</u> | | | |
| Standard of accommodation not available | Staff member, and his spouse, UNHCR | Dar es Salaam/Detroit/Dar es Salaam | <u>2 008</u> |
| Total, B | | | <u>2 008</u> |
| Grand total, A and B | | | <u><u>4 369</u></u> |

a/ The points of ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that some legs of the itinerary were by the regular standard of accommodation and no exception was involved.
