

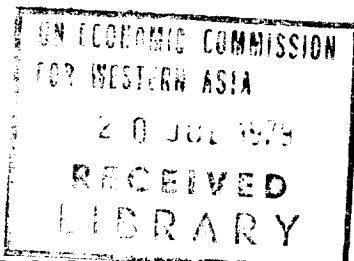
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Item 6 (b) of the Revised Provisional Agenda

Progress report on the implementation of
ECWA Resolution 27 (III), on ECWA Study
of the Economic and Social Situation and
Potential of the Palestinian Arab People

(Note from the Executive Secretary)

In consultation with the Palestine Liberation Organization an extensive search was carried out with the purpose of recruiting the staff for the study including the director/senior consultant.

Pending the appointment of a director/senior consultant who is expected to participate in the selection of the other members of the team action on the study was initiated by the ECWA task force charged with observing the implementation of Resolution 27 (III). One researcher and two consultants were appointed, and a limited programme of research was undertaken, based on the broad outline of the study as contained in document E/ECWA/32/Add.1. The following components of the research programme are presently being carried out:

- (a) The preparation of a research bibliography, in English and Arabic, on the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian people. The bibliography includes official documents of the United Nations, official publications by the governments of the region, research studies, and a number of unpublished reports;

- (b) A study of the demographic situation of the Palestinian people. This includes analysis of the geographical distribution, the age and sex structure, components of demographic growth, international migration flows, and probable future trends;
- (c) A study of the legal and administrative status of the Palestinian people in the Arab host countries;
- (d) A survey of economic, social and cultural institutions and activities under the Palestine Liberation Organization, including field visits to these institutions.

Financial Implications for the Implementation
of ECWA Resolution 27(III)

Due to the effect of inflation, it has become necessary to revise the original estimates of financial implications for the implementation of ECWA Resolution 27 (III). The revised cost estimate for the entire study is now \$ 382,801.

To implement the resolution, the United Nations provided a special appropriation of \$ 59,500 for the biennium 1976-77. The Government of Qatar contributed \$ 142,000.

Of the United Nations contribution, approximately \$10,000 was expended. The balance of \$ 49,500 is not readily available for 1978-79 since it was allocated to the previous biennium, and the balances of all funds not expended during any budgetary period have to revert to the United Nations General Fund. Special action is therefore necessary to re-appropriate this balance.

Of the funds contributed by the Government of Qatar, \$15,000 was expended, so that approximately \$127,000 remain. These funds are now available for the study.

It is therefore estimated that, in addition to funds now available, \$230,801 will be required for the completion of the study, to be provided by the United Nations, by ECWA members and other sources.