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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. The purpose of this addendum is to bring to the attention of the General Assembly recent developments in the preparation of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.
2. Pursuant to operative paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 2581 (XXIV), the Secretary-General has appointed a Secretary-General of the Conference. The Prime Minister of Canada has agreed to make available the services of Mr. Maurice F. Strong, President of the Canadian International Development Agency, who will take up his duties on 16 November 1970.
3. As recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1536 (XLIX), the Secretary-General convened an informal meeting with members of the Preparatory Committee at United Nations Headquarters, on 9 and 10 November 1970.
4. Arrangements are being made for the convening of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment at Geneva from 8 to 19 February 1971. The third session will be held at United Nations Headquarters later in 1971.
5. The Secretary-General will make available before the end of December 1970 a progress report on the preparatory work for the Conference.
6. The progress report will be based on the assumption that the Conference must be process-oriented, which means that the role of the United Nations Secretariat

must be to organize and manage a process which will enable Governments to reach decisions and take actions on the most pressing environmental issues. As outlined by the Secretary-General of the Conference during the informal meeting of the Preparatory Committee, the work of the Conference should accordingly be structured on three levels, as follows:

(a) The intellectual-conceptual level, designed to identify major areas of intellectual consensus and major gaps in present knowledge, to identify priority issues and indicate the direction in which action might best proceed;

(b) The production of an action plan to constitute a work programme for the years ahead; this plan would consist of those items on which a sufficient degree of consensus can be reached to enable the Conference to agree on concrete recommendations for future action and institutional alternatives for taking such action;

(c) The third level would include those few but important items on which action can be completed by the Conference. They clearly must be identified by February 1971 and the process of intergovernmental work must be set in motion to permit adoption at Stockholm of the relevant conventions, treaties or agreements that may be agreed upon.

7. Accordingly, the progress report will attempt to present as clearly as possible the various items that have been proposed for inclusion in the agenda; it will endeavour to indicate the level on which each item might be dealt with and, where ⁵appropriate, the type of action that might be taken. This will enable Governments to consider the key agenda items before the February meeting and come prepared to reach conclusions at that meeting. In response to the wishes of Governments, the Secretariat will also do its best to give, before the meeting, an indication of its own views on the agenda.

8. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1536 (XLIX), in which the Council underlined that "every effort be made to keep the financial implications to the minimum compatible with the task of fulfilling the objectives of the Conference", a revised statement of financial implications is provided in paragraph 9 below. On the basis of the approach outlined in paragraph 6 above, the main characteristics of the statement are substantial reduction in documentation offset by more investment in expertise. While the arrangements for the servicing

of the Conference would remain the same as previously proposed,^{1/} the estimates in paragraph 9 below are based on the following additional assumptions:

(a) The Preparatory Committee will meet twice in 1971 and once in 1972. Two of these meetings will be held at Headquarters and one at Geneva;

(b) In addition to the Secretary-General of the Conference, the temporary Conference secretariat will consist of a small office for the Secretary-General of the Conference (three Professionals), an Administrative Officer, seven Professionals for the strictly substantive part of the Conference and fourteen General Service staff. The average duration of the services of the temporary Conference secretariat will be eighteen months;

(c) The temporary secretariat of the Conference will be located at Geneva and a liaison unit will be maintained at Headquarters;

(d) It will be recalled that it was envisaged earlier that the pre-session documentation would amount to some 6,500 pages. In view of the action-oriented character of the Conference, it is now planned to prepare the equivalent of approximately 1,600 mimeographed pages of pre-session documentation in four languages, 600 of which will be printed prior to the Conference period;

(e) The post-session documentation, amounting to approximately 500 printed pages, will consist of a final report containing both that part of the pre-session documentation which will have been printed and the report of the Conference;

(f) To ensure the participation of the developing countries in the preparatory work of the Conference, four regional meetings of experts in the areas of the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut (UNESOB) would be convened, three in 1971 and one in 1972.

9. Thus, the revised financial implications of the Conference over the next two years are estimated as follows:

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session. Supplement No. 7 (A/7707).

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(US dollars)		
(a) Meetings of the Preparatory Committee ..	34,600	9,700	44,300
(b) Staff costs	537,000	270,000	807,000
(c) Travel of staff	39,500	22,000	61,500
(d) Experts and consultants	315,000	85,000	400,000
(e) Participation of developing countries	72,000	24,000	96,000
(f) Documentation, including printing of the final report	150,000	100,000	250,000 ^{a/}
(g) Servicing of the Conference	-	123,800	123,800
(h) Information services	-	58,500	58,500
(i) General expenses for communications, equipment and supplies	15,000	10,000	25,000
Total	<u>1,163,100</u>	<u>703,000</u>	<u>1,866,100</u>

^{a/} Includes printing costs originally envisaged for 1973.

10. This revised budget represents the minimum level of financial support necessary if the expectations for the Conference are to be met. This is only possible because the Secretary-General has been encouraged to believe that additional resources would be available from other sources. But because the extent and nature of this support cannot be determined at this time, resources may have to be used with maximum flexibility within the amount appropriated. Even so, it must be emphasized that proceeding on a limited budget involves dependence on extrabudgetary resources.

11. A comparative table showing the original estimates submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session,^{2/} the estimates submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-ninth session (E/4828) and the revised figures is annexed to this report.

^{2/} Ibid.

Annex

SUMMARY COMPARATIVE TABLE
(In thousands of US dollars)

Item	1970		1971			1972 ^{a/}			Total		
	A/7707	E/4828	A/7707	E/4828	New	A/7707	E/4828	New	A/7707	E/4828	New ^{b/}
(a) Meetings of the Preparatory Committee	16.7	8.3	8.6	34.6	34.6	9.7	9.7	9.7	35.0	52.6	52.6
(b) Staff costs	81.0	81.0	160.0	320.0	537.0	120.0	255.0	270.0	361.0	656.0	888.0
(c) Travel of staff	5.0	5.0	5.0	34.0	39.5	10.0	39.0	22.0	20.0	78.0	66.5
(d) Experts and consultants	68.5	8.0	51.5	112.0	315.0	37.5	37.5	85.0	157.5	157.5	408.0
(e) Participation of developing countries	-	-	-	65.0	72.0	-	-	24.0	-	65.0	96.0
(f) Documentation, including printing of the final report	-	-	689.6	689.6	150.0	118.6 ^{a/}	118.6 ^{a/}	100.0	808.2	808.2	250.0
(g) Servicing of the Conference	-	-	-	-	-	123.8	123.8	123.8	123.8	123.8	123.8
(h) Information services	-	-	-	4.5	-	58.5	63.0	58.5	58.5	67.5	58.5
(i) General expenses	-	-	-	-	15.0	-	-	10.0	-	-	25.0
TOTAL	171.2	102.3	914.7	1,259.7	1,163.1	478.1	646.6	703.0	1,564.0	2,008.6	1,968.4

a/ Including 1973 provisions indicated in A/7707 and E/4828 for item (f) (printing of the final report).

b/ Including 1970 appropriations.