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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

Establishment of a United Nations information centre at Windhoek

Conduct of briefings as a follow-up to the journalists' tour to Namibia

Report of the Secretary-General

A. Establishment of a United Nations information centre at Windhoek

1. In paragraphs 21 and 23 of section I of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly urged the Secretary-General to facilitate and expedite the establishment of an information centre at Windhoek and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the subject.
2. On 21 August 1991, a host country agreement was signed at Headquarters by representatives of the Government of Namibia and the United Nations. Negotiations had been conducted since March 1991 at Headquarters and at Windhoek. Discussions on the question of office premises for the information centre and the selection and appointment of the centre Director are expected to be completed shortly. The United Nations Information Centre at Windhoek should become operational before the end of 1991.

B. Conduct in early 1991 of briefings as a follow-up to the journalists' tour to Namibia

3. In paragraphs 22 and 23 of section I of its resolution 45/248 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General: (a) to organize briefings for non-governmental organizations, the media and the business community as a follow-up to the journalists' tour to Namibia; and (b) to submit to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the subject.

4. In lieu of the above briefings, the United Nations organized from 29 April to 3 May 1991 at Windhoek a seminar on promoting an independent and pluralistic African press, which was jointly sponsored by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (the latter being responsible for the administrative arrangements). United Nations extrabudgetary funds in the amount of \$152,000 were earmarked for that programme and allocated to UNESCO to cover, among other things, the travel and subsistence costs of invited media participants. The regular budget share of the cost of the seminar comprised funds to cover travel and subsistence costs of a number of servicing staff of the Department of Public Information (\$40,800) and a contribution of \$18,000 towards seminar expenses. These regular budget costs, totalling \$58,800, were met from the balance of funds remaining in the revised appropriation approved by the General Assembly for 1990-1991 for completion of information activities on Namibia.

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