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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs
of the United Nations

Report by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 35/218 of 17 December 1980, decided that, with effect from 1 January 1981, the following rates of honoraria should be payable in those cases which it had already authorized on an exceptional basis, namely, the International Law Commission, the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and the Human Rights Committee:

	<u>Revised rate of honoraria</u> (United States dollars)
Chairmen (Presidents)	5 000
Vice-Chairman of the International Narcotics Control Board	4 000
Other members	3 000
Additional amount payable to members of the International Law Commission, when acting as special rapporteurs, conditional upon the preparation of specific reports of studies between sessions of the Commission	2 500

No increase in those rates of honoraria has taken place since that date.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to keep the above rates of honoraria under review and to report thereon to the Assembly when, in his judgement, their revision by the Assembly might be warranted.
3. The same rates of honoraria have been applied subsequently to two other subsidiary organs, on an exceptional basis. In resolution 36/240 of 18 December 1981 the General Assembly approved that the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women be paid the rate of honoraria set out in resolution 35/218. 1/ By section VII of resolution 44/201 A of 21 December 1989, the Assembly decided that the emoluments for members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child should be payable at the rates of honoraria authorized in resolution 35/218.
4. It is recalled that, prior to the adoption of resolution 35/218, the General Assembly had examined this matter on several occasions, notably at its thirtieth, 2/ thirty-first 3/ and thirty-third 4/ sessions. The basic principle enunciated by the Assembly in its resolution 2489 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, and as reaffirmed in its resolutions 3536 (XXX) and 35/218, was that neither a fee nor any other remuneration in addition to subsistence allowances at the standard rate should normally be paid to members of organs or subsidiary organs unless expressly decided upon by the General Assembly. It is further recalled that, at its thirtieth session, the Assembly had sought to determine whether it would be possible to replace the present practice, which derived from ad hoc decisions to allow exceptions to a rule, by a coherent system under which uniform criteria would determine whether members of a particular organ or subsidiary organ should or should not be paid honoraria.
5. It is noted that, in 1975, the Secretary-General proposed an increase in the rates of honoraria on the grounds that inflation and other economic factors had substantially reduced purchasing power since the amounts were initially established. In reviewing the proposal, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), in its report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session, 5/ stated that there was no indication in the record that the Assembly had intended the payments, which were considered to be of a token nature, to be adjusted to compensate, in whole or in part, for the subsequent loss in purchasing power.
6. The Legal Counsel of the United Nations has received a communication dated 30 November 1989 from the President of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal proposing increases in the rates of honoraria for the President and members of the Tribunal. Bearing in mind the above conditions enunciated by the General Assembly and by the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General has noted the arguments put forward by the President of the Tribunal, notably the doubling of its volume of work in the last decade, which could serve as a basis for an increase in the rates of honoraria. A concomitant increase in the responsibilities and workload may be detected for the other five bodies for which honoraria have been authorized. Considering the length of time that has elapsed since the occasion of the latest revision of the rates of

honoraria, the Secretary-General is of the view that it is appropriate to bring the matter to the attention of the Assembly, pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 35/218.

7. The Secretary-General proposes that revised rates of honoraria, with effect from 1 January 1992, should be payable in those cases that the General Assembly has already authorized on an exceptional basis, namely, the International Law Commission, the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Administrative Tribunal, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, as follows:

	<u>Rate of honoraria</u> (United States dollars)		
	<u>Present rate a/</u>	<u>Proposed rate</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Chairmen (Presidents)	5 000	6 250	1 250
Vice-Chairman of the International Narcotics Control Board	4 000	5 000	1 000
Other members	3 000	3 750	750
Additional amount payable to members of the International Law Commission, when acting as special rapporteurs, conditional upon the preparation of specific reports of studies between sessions of the Commission	2 500	3 125	625

a/ As authorized by the General Assembly by its resolutions 35/218, 36/240 and 44/201.

8. In the absence of an established procedure to determine the amount of an increase for honoraria that are of a token nature, the proposed revised rates of honoraria reflect a 25 per cent increase over the current rates. Without prejudice to the view enunciated by ACABQ cited above, the fact remains that the honoraria have experienced a decline in their real value as a result of inflation since they were revised 10 years ago. It is noted that the President of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal has suggested an increase in the rates of honoraria from \$3,000 to \$6,000 for members of the Tribunal and from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for its President.

9. Should the proposal contained in paragraph 7 above regarding a revision in the rates of honoraria be adopted, additional appropriations totalling \$173,250 would be requested for the biennium 1992-1993, broken down as follows:

			United States <u>dollars</u>
Section 21	Social development and humanitarian affairs	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Chairman, 22 members)	35 500
Section 22	International drug control	International Narcotics Control Board (President, 2 Vice-Presidents, 10 members)	21 500
Section 28	Human rights	Human Rights Committee (Chairman, 17 members)	28 000
Section 28	Human rights	Committee on the Rights of the Child (Chairman, 9 members)	16 000
Section 9	Legal activities	International Law Commission (Chairman, 33 members, 7 rapporteurs)	60 750
Section 9	Legal activities	United Nations Administrative Tribunal (Chairman, 6 members)	11 500
			<u>173 250</u>

Notes

- 1/ See document A/C.5/36/90.
- 2/ See A/C.5/1677 and Corr.1, A/10500 and resolution 3536 (XXX).
- 3/ See A/C.5/31/2.
- 4/ See A/C.5/33/54 and A/33/7/Add.39.
- 5/ See A/10008/Add.3.
