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QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained
in document A/SPC/46/L.6

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Request contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/46/L.6, the General Assembly would call upon the Secretary-General, in respect of United Nations public information activities, to implement recommendations adopted by the Committee on Information at its thirteenth session. Operative paragraphs 1 (1) and 1 (m) of the draft resolution, which would give rise to additional requirements, read as follows:

"(1) Taking note of the request for the enhancing of United Nations information centres in Tehran, Dar es Salaam, Dhaka and Bujumbura, the Committee on Information recommends that the Department of Public Information provide the necessary professionals and equipment where necessary;

"(m) The Committee on Information recommends that, pending final discussions with the Secretariat, the General Assembly consider approval of the establishment of a new United Nations information centre in San'a, Yemen ...".

B. Relationship of the request to the approved programme of work

2. The activities proposed in the draft resolution are related to major programme VIII, programme 38, Public information, subprogrammes 1 and 2 (Promotional services and Information services, respectively) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, and to section 31, Public information, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

3. With regard to the enhancement of the United Nations information centres referred to in operative paragraph 1 (1) of the draft resolution, it is still the view of the Secretary-General that, as indicated to the Committee on Information, there appears to be no need for additional staff resources at the Centre at Bujumbura. Similarly, concerning the Centre at Dhaka, current arrangements for its administration appear adequate. On the other hand, with respect to the Centre at Dar es Salaam, the volume and nature of information activities undertaken by the Centre would warrant the establishment of a post of full-time Director. Provisions for equipment at these three centres would be reviewed with a view to supplementing them, as necessary, through redeployments.

4. As to the Information Centre at Tehran, its activities have been limited for the past years to the distribution of United Nations materials by United Nations Development Programme staff working part time on information activities under the supervision of the Resident Representative of UNDP. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Centre would be re-established on a fully operational basis.

5. Lastly, consultations have already taken place with regard to the possible opening of an information centre at San'a, Yemen. Subject to the approval by the General Assembly, an agreement on the subject would be concluded with the host country.

D. Additional requirements at full cost

6. On a full-cost basis, the additional requirements arising from operative paragraph 1 (1) of the draft resolution in question are estimated at \$520,200 as follows:

(a) Bujumbura, Dar es Salaam and Dhaka

United States dollars

Establishment of a post at the P-4 level for a full-time Director at Dar es Salaam	103 400
Acquisition of equipment and furniture for the information centres at Bujumbura, Dar es Salaam and Dhaka	<u>90 000</u>
Total	<u>193 400</u>

(b) Tehran

In order to bring the Information Centre at Tehran to a fully operational status, the total additional costs are projected at \$326,800, as follows:

United States dollars

Establishment of a post at the P-4 level for a full-time Director	103 400
Establishment of three local-level support posts	85 200
Recurrent operating costs: rental and maintenance of premises, utilities, communications, maintenance of equipment, supplies and services, overtime, travel of staff, library books, external translation	98 200
Non-recurrent initial expenses (acquisition of furniture and equipment)	<u>40 000</u>
Total	<u>326 800</u>

Actual costs may be reduced depending on the terms of the host country agreement to be renegotiated between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations.

7. In respect of the request contained in operative paragraph 1 (m) regarding the opening of an information centre in Yemen, based on negotiations which have already taken place, the host Government has offered the provision of rent-free premises at San'a. On that basis, the additional cost of opening an information centre at that location is estimated at \$371,900, as follows:

United States dollars

(a) Establishment of a post at the P-4 level for a full-time Director	103 400
(b) Establishment of five local-level support posts	142 000
(c) Recurrent operating costs: maintenance of premises, utilities, communications, maintenance of equipment, supplies and services, overtime, travel of staff, library books, external translation	86 500
(d) Non-recurrent initial expenses (acquisition of furniture and equipment)	<u>40 000</u>
Total	<u>371 900</u>

E. Potential for absorption

8. The total additional requirements at full cost arising from the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/46/L.6 are thus estimated at \$892,100. It is estimated that requirements for the acquisition of equipment at the information centres at Bujumbura, Dar es Salaam and Dhaka, estimated at \$90,000 could be accommodated from within the overall resources under equipment and furniture included under section 31 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

F. Indication of additional requirements

9. On the above basis, the additional requirements arising from the draft resolution in question are estimated at \$802,100.

G. Contingency fund

10. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session.

11. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 31 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the implementation of the draft resolution may have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund adopted by the Assembly in resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

H. Summary

12. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.6, it is estimated that an additional appropriation of \$802,100 would be required under section 31 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. In addition, an amount of \$72,400 would be required under section 36 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).
