



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/8890  
14 November 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session  
Agenda items 38 and 73

THE POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1973

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions C and D  
recommended by the Special Political Committee (A/8879, para. 30)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Oleg PASHKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)

1. At its 1526th meeting, on 14 November 1972, the Fifth Committee, in compliance with rule 155 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1463) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions C and D recommended by the Special Political Committee in its report on agenda item 38 (A/8879, para. 30). The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions is contained in document A/8708/Add.8.

I. DRAFT RESOLUTION C

2. Under the terms of draft resolution C, the General Assembly would endorse the programme of work of the Special Committee on Apartheid as contained in its report 1/ and would request and authorize the Special Committee to take certain specific measures in pursuance of its mandate.

3. In his statement (A/C.5/1463), the Secretary-General summarized the programme of work of the Special Committee as contained in paragraphs 245 to 250 of its report 2/ and estimated the related financial implications at \$18,900. Since an

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session,  
Supplement No. 22 (A/8722).

2/ Ibid.

appropriation of \$15,000 for the activities of the Special Committee has already been approved by the Fifth Committee in first reading at its 1510th meeting, on 23 October 1972, the Secretary-General indicated that an additional appropriation of \$3,900 would be required under section 17, chapter V, of the budget for 1973.

4. In its report (A/8708/Add.8) the Advisory Committee indicated that it accepted the Secretary-General's estimates of financial implications on the understanding that the Secretary-General would ensure that, in accordance with the administrative procedures introduced in 1972 for the control of travel of staff, the number of staff members who accompany the members of the Special Committee is kept to the minimum necessary.

## II. DRAFT RESOLUTION D

5. Under the terms of draft resolution D, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, among other things, to take steps to intensify the dissemination of information on apartheid, taking into account paragraphs 220 to 228 of the report of the Special Committee on Apartheid. 3/

6. In his statement (A/C.5/1463), the Secretary-General indicated that if the proposals regarding the reorientation of the activities of the Office of Public Information, contained in his report on the review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (A/C.5/1452), were approved, OPI should be in a position to address itself to the suggestions and recommendations contained in the draft resolution and in paragraphs 220 to 228 of the Special Committee's report. With regard to other specific recommendations of the Special Committee, the Secretary-General indicated that an additional appropriation of \$900 would be needed under section 17, chapter V, to cover the travel and subsistence costs related to the representation of the Special Committee at the 1973 editors' round-table to be held in Santiago, Chile, and a further appropriation of \$12,000 would be required under section 3, chapter III, for the translation of publications of the Unit on Apartheid into languages other than English and French.

7. In its report (A/8708/Add.8), the Advisory Committee indicated that, bearing in mind the magnitude of the 1973 appropriation it had recommended for section 3, chapter III (about \$4.1 million), it had inquired whether the additional expenditure of \$12,000 could be absorbed, and had been informed in the affirmative. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should be informed that an additional appropriation of \$900 would be needed under section 17, chapter V, of the budget for 1973, in the event the draft resolution is adopted.

## III. PROCEEDINGS IN THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

8. Several representatives expressed support for the activities of the Special Committee on Apartheid and consequently for the appropriations recommended to finance those activities. With regard to the financial requirements for the

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3/ Ibid.

programme of work of the Special Committee (draft resolution C), some delegations inquired whether special arrangements similar to those made for the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples could not be made for the Special Committee, so as to allow the Secretary-General, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, to provide additional funds, should they be required in the course of 1973. The representative of the Secretary-General stated that whether such flexibility should be provided in this case was ultimately for the General Assembly to decide, and pointed to the difference in the wording of the resolutions authorizing the activities of the two Committees. In the case of the Special Committee on Apartheid, draft resolution C would authorize certain specific activities "within the budgetary appropriations to be made for this purpose". Therefore, the Secretary-General would not be in a position to exceed this particular appropriation on his own authority. Should it prove necessary to meet any urgent needs arising within the framework of the functions assigned to the Special Committee and for which no provision or insufficient provision had been made in the appropriations, he would seek the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee.

9. Responding to questions posed by delegations with regard to draft resolution D, the representative of the Secretary-General indicated that the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the amount of \$12,000 requested by the Secretary-General under section 3, chapter III, be absorbed would not in any way restrict the full implementation of the related programme of the Special Committee.

10. In connexion with draft resolution C, one representative stated that he could not support the appropriations requested for the activities of the Special Committee. In the view of that representative such activities were illegal since they infringed on the provisions of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter. Similarly, that representative opposed the allocation of funds in connexion with draft resolution D since they would provide for the intensification of an information campaign which it considered inimical to its Government and illegal under the Charter.

11. Speaking in connexion with draft resolution C, one representative recalled that, while his delegation had supported the draft resolution, it had expressed certain reservations in the Special Political Committee and for the same reasons wished to take the same position with regard to the appropriations that the draft resolution entailed.

12. Another representative expressed regret that the Fifth Committee was being asked to make recommendations regarding draft resolution D, dealing with informational activities to be performed by the Office of Public Information, before having had the opportunity of discussing the Secretary-General's report on the review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (A/C.5/1452).

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IV. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

13. The Fifth Committee decided, by 91 votes to 2, to inform the General Assembly that:

(a) Should it adopt draft resolution C recommended by the Special Political Committee, an additional appropriation not exceeding \$3,900 would be required under section 17, chapter V, of the budget for 1973;

(b) Should it adopt draft resolution D recommended by the Special Political Committee, an additional appropriation of \$900 would be required under section 17, chapter V, of the budget for 1973.

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