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QUESTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1973

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution  
recommended by the Second Committee (A/8924, para. 10)

Report of the Fifth Committee

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

1. At its 1546th meeting, on 8 December 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.5/1486) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in its report (A/8924, para. 10).

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, acting in close co-operation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to establish a Founding Committee of the United Nations University to define further the objectives and principles of the University and to draft its charter. This Committee would consist of not more than 20 experts chosen with due regard to geographical distribution and major academic, educational and cultural trends in the world, taking into account their fields of study as well as the need to include outstanding young scholars. Ten of the experts are to be designated by the Secretary-General and 10 by the Director-General of UNESCO.

3. In his statement (A/C.5/1486), the Secretary-General pointed out that, should the General Assembly approve the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee, he would, in accordance with the terms of operative paragraph 3, designate 10 experts to serve on the Founding Committee in their individual capacity. The costs related to the participation in the work of the Committee of these 10 experts designated by the Secretary-General, in the amount of \$33,850, would be borne by the United Nations.

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4. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions noted in its report (A/8708/Add.15) that the General Conference of UNESCO, in its recommendation of 17 November 1972, authorized the Director-General to use not only UNESCO's regular budget, but also voluntary contributions to defray the cost of such preparatory work as would be undertaken by the proposed Founding Committee (A/8898). The Committee believed that the same principle should apply in the case of the United Nations share of the costs and that they should not automatically be a charge on the Organization's regular budget. The Committee was informed that, in the past, voluntary contributions have in fact been used towards the United Nations share of preparatory work for the University. Moreover, with the completion of the preliminary studies and reports, the project has entered a new phase. The Advisory Committee considered, therefore, that henceforth it would be more appropriate and more consistent with the method of financing envisaged in operative paragraph 2 (g) of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee to rely on voluntary contributions to meet any costs associated with the project. In these circumstances, the Advisory Committee suggested that, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee (A/8924, para. 10) and authorize the appropriation of \$33,850, as requested by the Secretary-General, it should do so on the understanding that the Secretary-General would seek, in due course, reimbursement of the costs of the Founding Committee from voluntary contributions made available for the University.

Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

5. The Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to inform the General Assembly that, should it approve the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee, (A/8924, para. 10) additional appropriations would be required amounting to \$31,800 under section 3, chapter III, and \$2,050 under section 5, chapter I, or a total of \$33,850 in the budget estimates for 1973, on the understanding that the Secretary-General would seek in due course reimbursement of the costs actually incurred from voluntary contributions made available for the University.

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