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THE POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1973

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
recommended by the Special Political Committee
(A/8879/Add.1, para. 6)

Report of the Fifth Committee

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

1. At its 1548th meeting, on 12 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.5/1495) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution on the International Conference of Trade Unions against Apartheid, recommended by the Special Political Committee (A/8879/Add.1, para. 6), and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8708/Add.19).
2. Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request and authorize the Special Committee on Apartheid to participate effectively in the proposed International Conference of Trade Unions against Apartheid and in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. At the same time, the Secretary-General would be requested to provide appropriate assistance to facilitate the holding of the Conference and authorized to reimburse the costs necessary to enable the participation of up to five representatives of trade union organizations from southern Africa in the Conference.

3. In his statement (A/C.5/1495), the Secretary-General recalled that budgetary provision for the participation of the Special Committee on Apartheid in the Conference had already been recommended by the Fifth Committee in a previous report (A/8890). He estimated that the costs related to the Special Committee's participation in the Preparatory Committee for the Conference would amount to \$2,800 for the travel and subsistence of not more than three members of the Special Committee and one Secretariat staff member, and that the costs of travel and subsistence for up to five representatives of trade union organizations from southern Africa would amount to \$5,500. With regard to the assistance that he would be requested to provide to facilitate the holding of the Conference, the Secretary-General stated that he would endeavour to provide such assistance from within the resources available to him, and assumed that such assistance as may be required would not give rise to any additional financial requirements.

4. In its report (A/8708/Add.19), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions indicated that it concurred in the Secretary-General's estimate of \$2,800 for the participation of the Special Committee on Apartheid in the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. With regard to the reimbursement of travel costs to representatives of trade union organizations, the Advisory Committee indicated that, in its opinion, it was questionable whether it is appropriate to defray from the United Nations budget the travel and subsistence costs of persons who are not members of a United Nations organ or of the Secretariat, to enable them to attend a conference that is not being convened by the United Nations. Nevertheless, should the General Assembly give the Secretary-General the authority specified in operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, the Advisory Committee agreed that the budgetary requirements would be of the order of \$5,500, as indicated by the Secretary-General.

5. One representative, referring to the comment of the Advisory Committee on the appropriateness for the Organization to defray the travel expenses of the representatives of trade union organizations, considered that the draft resolution dealt with a question of principle and policy regarding the assistance which the Organization was prepared to give to the oppressed peoples of southern Africa, which was for the General Assembly to decide. Accordingly, it was not within the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee to pronounce itself on the question

of principle, but only to advise the General Assembly on the financial implications of such measures as the General Assembly might decide to adopt.

6. The Fifth Committee decided without objection to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political Committee in part two of its report (A/8879/Add.1, para. 6), an additional appropriation of \$8,300 would be required under section 17, chapter V, of the budget for the financial year 1973.

7. One representative stated that it wished to place on record his delegation's reservations as to the legality, in terms of the Charter of the United Nations, of the recommendation made. Furthermore, his delegation considered that the comments contained in paragraph 4 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8708/Add.19) were pertinent and deserved careful consideration.
