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### REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE QUESTION OF DEFINING AGGRESSION

#### BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1973

#### Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee (A/8929, para.38)

#### Report of the Fifth Committee

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

1. At its 1542nd meeting, on 5 December 1972, the Fifth Committee, in compliance with rule 155 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1478) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in its report (A/8929, para.38) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8708/Add.13).
2. Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide that the Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression should resume its work at Geneva, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2330 (XXII), as early as possible after 1 April 1973.
3. In his statement (A/C.5/1478), the Secretary-General indicated that, on the basis of certain assumptions with respect to the servicing needs of the Special Committee and the dates of its session (16 July-17 August 1973), it was estimated that an additional appropriation of \$91,300 would be required for the recruitment, on a temporary assistance basis, of the required language and conference servicing staff (\$84,800) and for the travel to Geneva and subsistence of substantive staff from Headquarters (\$6,500).

4. In its report (A/8708/Add.13), the Advisory Committee noted that the Secretary-General had provided the Sixth Committee with the estimates of the financial implications of a session of the Special Committee in either Geneva or New York (A/C.6/L.875). If the Special Committee were to meet in New York, the costs for a session during April/May 1973 were estimated at \$26,000 and during July/August at \$23,600. The Sixth Committee had subsequently adopted an oral amendment to the draft resolution specifying the venue as Geneva. Since no substantive reasons had been advanced in favour of the Geneva venue and, in view of the present financial difficulties of the United Nations, the Advisory Committee did not believe that sufficient justification existed for incurring extra costs that would amount to some \$65,000. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee suggested that the General Assembly might wish to reconsider this aspect of the Sixth Committee's decision. The Advisory Committee further indicated that convening the session in New York would be more consistent with the desire expressed in the draft resolution that the Special Committee resume its work "as early as possible after 1 April 1973", since it could be accommodated at New York in April/May 1973. In that case, the additional appropriation required would be limited to \$26,000.

Proceedings in the Fifth Committee

5. One delegation stated that, if the Advisory Committee's recommendation were put to a vote, it would abstain since it could not approve the present conference servicing arrangements which produced exaggerated costs for meetings held at Geneva. Additionally, its abstention should also serve as an indication of its concern over the attitude of the Secretariat which, in connexion with the pattern of conferences, had shown that it was neither willing to remedy the situation nor to provide comparative cost estimates of meetings held at Headquarters and at Geneva. Another delegation expressed doubts as to the correctness of the Advisory Committee's recommendation that a decision taken by the Sixth Committee should be abrogated and the draft resolution modified. The Sixth Committee's decision, he pointed out, had been based on an agreement reached in 1968 whereby the Special Committee's sessions should be held alternately in New York and Geneva. In that delegation's view, the estimated costs for a Geneva meeting were too high, so that it should prove possible for the Special Committee to meet at Geneva within the

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appropriation of \$26,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee. In this connexion, the representative of the Secretary-General stated that, because the permanent conference servicing staff at Geneva was limited in numbers, it was only possible to service special meetings, such as the one under consideration, by recruitment, on a temporary assistance basis, of all the necessary staff. In view of the anticipated requirements of the Special Committee, he did not consider that the related costs could be limited to \$26,000.

6. Several delegations spoke in support of the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

#### Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee, by 46 votes to 11, with 19 abstentions, decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the next session of the Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression be held in New York and that, should the General Assembly so decide, an additional appropriation of \$26,000 would be required under section 2 of the budget for the financial year 1973.

8. One delegation stated that, consistent with the position it had taken in the Sixth Committee, it had abstained in the vote. While it acknowledged the pertinence of the arguments put forward by the Advisory Committee, which had been based on financial considerations, it would have welcomed a recommendation which would permit the Special Committee to alternate its sessions between New York and Geneva.

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